

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PORT AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL AT McMANUS PARK IN ASTORIA, NY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 75 employees of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey who tragically lost their lives in the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. In recognition of the ultimate sacrifice they made while striving to rescue others, these fallen heroes have been honored with the dedication of a memorial in McManus Memorial Park in Astoria, New York.

I attended the dedication of the memorial and was deeply moved by the heartfelt testament to these fallen heroes by friends, family, and area residents. This park will bear witness that their courage and selflessness will never be forgotten, while offering a quiet and tranquil oasis amidst the busy city that affords an opportunity for reflection upon the terrible losses borne on that tragic day.

I ask that the following speeches given at the dedication ceremony be entered into the record:

THE UNITED COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
(By Rose Marie Poveromo, President)

Good evening ladies and gentleman. Tonight's memorial dedication ceremony is a joint effort shared by the United Community Civic Association and our neighbor, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

This living memorial of "A Grove of Trees" is to specifically honor the 75 Port Authority employees as well as all the other innocents who so tragically lost their lives in the 9111 shattering, horrific attack on, and total collapse of, the twin towers.

PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

(By Bill De Costa)

I am grateful to be here to dedicate this memorial to the 75 Port Authority employees, and neighbors who lost their lives in the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. This ceremony also honors the memory of all the New York City police officers, firemen and all the other citizens who gave the ultimate sacrifice that day.

Any event is always more meaningful when you receive acknowledgment from your family, so we are particularly honored that our neighbors and friends represented by the United Civic Community Association have been so thoughtful and considerate in their recognition. Thank you Rose Marie!

Yes, whether we are Port Authority or New York City employees, we are all actual members of this vibrant and wonderful community.

As we stand here today and view the McManus Vietnam Memorial at one end of the park, and now this Port Authority me-

morial at the other end of the park, we should always be reminded of the words of President Harry Truman: "Freedom is still expensive. It still costs money. It still costs blood. It still calls for courage and endurance, not only in soldiers, but in every man and woman who is free and who is determined to remain free."

Seventy-five Port Authority employees, including 37 police officers, made the ultimate sacrifice that September morning. Always remember these people who were our neighbors, family members and friends. The greatest testimony that we can now give them is to continue our resolve for security and freedom and to continue to work and live in this spirit.

Thank you all for attending and remembering them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me honoring the Port Authority employees, the police officers and firefighters, and all those who paid the ultimate price on September 11, 2001 and to recognize those who planted a beautiful memorial grove of trees in their honor. It aptly serves as a living tribute to the brave men and women of the Port Authority and all who lost their lives on that tragic day.

BASIC PILOT EXTENSION ACT OF
2003

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1685, the Basic Pilot Extension Act of 2003.

The Basic Pilot Verification program was created in 1997 to assist employers in verifying the eligibility of prospective employees to work in the U.S. Currently the program is only available to employers in six States. Recently I voted against a bill to expand and extend the program, H.R. 2359, because I thought an expansion of this program deserved more debate and allowance for amendments to fix some of the more problematic parts of the bill.

The Senate-passed measure that we are considering today, S. 1685, is an improvement on the House bill.

Unlike the House bill, this bill does not open up access to the databases of the Homeland Security Department and the Social Security Administration to other Federal agencies or to State and local government agencies. I had grave concerns about the infringement of civil liberties in the House bill, which would have permitted widespread sharing of employee information. I am also pleased that concerns already identified by the Department of Homeland Security about the Basic Pilot program are being addressed. I still have apprehensions that the data used in this program is not always up-to-date or accurate, specifically in regard to the visa status of employees. However, I am hopeful that the Homeland Security Department report required under this legisla-

tion will address these concerns so that they can be resolved by the time the program is expanded to all fifty states.

The Basic Pilot Verifications program provides an efficient and effective method for ensuring that employers are hiring eligible employees. I hope that through the extension and expansion provided for in this bill, this program will provide accurate information about prospective employees and continue to address the needs of American employers.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID LOFYE

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a fond farewell to a member of my staff, David Lofye, who will be leaving Capitol Hill at the end of this calendar year. David is leaving his position as my Deputy Chief of Staff, and will be moving to Austin, Texas with his wife, Andrea Lofye.

All of us who serve in Congress know how important our staff members are to us. David came to my office after completing law school nearly six years ago. His knowledge of legislative issues, his strong work ethic, and his desire to make a difference have grown exponentially during this time. I value David's council and his pragmatic and methodical approach to each task he undertook.

David has staffed me on both the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, as well as the Science Committee. His depth of knowledge on these and other issues has been invaluable over the past six years.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with David. I am confident that his abilities and his work ethic will continue to serve him well in the years to come.

David, thank you for your hard work over the last six years. You will truly be missed.

RECOGNIZING THE MORRIS ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE AND SAVE THE LIGHT

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Morris Island Lighthouse and to applaud the efforts of Save the Light. Save the Light is a non-profit entity dedicated to the preservation of the Morris Island Lighthouse. The Morris Island Lighthouse, a National Historic Landmark which began operation in 1876, is a true historical treasure, playing significant roles in both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. It was decommissioned in 1962 by the U.S. Coast Guard, but is now owned by the State of South Carolina and leased to Save the Light.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The island on which the lighthouse is situated has all but washed away, leaving the lighthouse precariously perched on a tiny sandbar that sits underwater at high tide. I want to thank Chairman Taylor and the Appropriations Committee for providing the first federal funding for this project in the recently passed Interior Appropriations Bill.

Save the Light has been coordinating monumental preservation efforts dedicated exclusively to the foundation repair of the Morris Island Lighthouse. The organization began as a grass roots effort by concerned citizens and has taken charge of the preservation of this historic site when public agencies would not. Save the Light has generated significant public support in raising funds for the project, worked with the Army Corps of Engineers and established a long-term maintenance program for the lighthouse.

The level of public support generated for its preservation underscores the importance of the Morris Island Lighthouse to the community, and I applaud Save the Light for all of their hard work and dedication. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
DENTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Denton Housing Authority to commend them for receiving three National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Merit Awards in Tampa, Florida this year.

The Denton Housing Authority has been active in the North Texas community for years, working hard to provide quality public and affordable housing. This year at the 2003 NAHRO awards ceremony, the Denton Housing Authority was recognized for their achievements in Program Innovation for Resident and Client Services. NAHRO President Curt Creager said, "These agencies are accomplishing remarkable levels of service for their communities and their residents. They are setting up programs and establishing standards that can be duplicated by other housing authorities around the country."

The Denton Housing Authority was recognized for three of their programs. The ARTS program brings together the DHA, University of North Texas, Center for Public Service, and Greater Denton Arts Council to provide an arts program and promote social skills for disadvantaged youth in low-income neighborhoods. The New Direction of Community Oriented Policy Services (COPS) program partners with the Denton Police Department to encourage community outreach services to create and sustain safer neighborhoods. Also, the Phoenix After-School Program teams with the University of North Texas and DHA to encourage social and academic success for socially challenged youth 4–11 years old living in the Phoenix Development. These are the kind of great programs that will create a better society in the future by giving our youth a strong foundation and forming a safer environment for our neighborhoods.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the Denton Housing

Authority for their innovation and hard work in providing community outreach services to the City of Denton and surrounding communities.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES AND CELEBRATES
MARVIN REED

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Mayor Marvin Reed, who has served the Borough of Princeton as mayor for 13 years.

A resident of the borough for 45 years, he began his career of public service in 1985 as a member of the Borough Council. Since that time the people of Princeton have chosen him as their leader for three consecutive terms.

Under his direction the town has made a deliberate and concentrated effort to make affordable housing available to all within the community. He has secured five affordable housing developments and has laid the groundwork for at least 68 units of low-income senior housing.

He has worked with the local police department to establish a strong community presence and to work hand in hand with residents. Throughout his years as mayor the borough has seen an increasingly strong community grow, one that works together to support senior programs, youth activities and growth within the community.

Through his efforts the borough has seen the renovation of Borough Hall, the reconstruction of Monument Park and the Suzanne Paterson Senior Center. His commitments to creating open space and historic preservation have made Princeton Borough a stronger community.

As an inspiration to his community and the State of New Jersey, Mayor Reed has contributed significantly to the life of his community. He has earned our heartfelt appreciation for his efforts.

HONORING WILLIE L. BROWN, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Willie Brown of San Francisco on his upcoming retirement after 40 years of dedication and spirited service to the community.

As we honor Mayor Brown, I want to thank him for being an exemplary role model, leader, and friend. I take great pride in joining his family, friends and colleagues to recognize and salute the accomplishments and contributions of Willie L. Brown, Jr.

Mayor Brown's personal story is an inspirational one. He was born into poverty on March 20, 1934, in Mineola, Texas, a small, racially-segregated Texas town, where he earned his first dollar as a shoeshine boy. Throughout his high school years, he worked as a janitor, a crop harvester and a messenger. On graduating, he moved to San Francisco, bringing with him a little more than a cardboard suitcase and hope in his heart.

He worked his way through and graduated from San Francisco State University and from the Hastings College of the Law. He was admitted to the State Bar of California and built a thriving law practice in what was then a predominantly white legal world.

Brown was elected to the California Assembly in 1964 and was re-elected 16 times, serving a total of 31 years in the Assembly. In 1980, he was elected Speaker of the Assembly, a position of power second only to that of the governor. The state's only African American Speaker, he held the position for an unprecedented 15 years.

Mayor Brown's personal experiences in the realm of racial discrimination have made him a tireless advocate for affirmative action. During his years as a state assemblyman, dozens of his bills became laws, including the passage of the most comprehensive educational reform and financing bill in 20 years. He also passed bills that requested the United States Congress to grant citizenship to Filipino veterans of WWII and eliminated criminal penalties for private sexual acts between consenting adults, a bill that was introduced before the Assembly five times before its ultimate passage.

While in the Assembly, several organizations awarded Brown for his tireless work on behalf of minority groups; he received the California Association of the Physically Handicapped Special Service Award, the ACLU Human Rights Award from the Gay Rights Chapter, the Tree of Life Award from the Jewish National Fund, the Japanese American Bar Association Award, and was honored by the California Advisory Commission on Special Education.

As mayor, he has continued his career-long commitment to civil rights and higher education, notably by designating the address of the refurbished City Hall as Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place after the recently-deceased San Francisco NAACP Chapter president and community activist. During the renaming ceremony and in front of a crowd of 7,000 people gathered at the 13th annual Martin Luther King Holiday rally, Mayor Brown restated his dedication for the betterment of education, his continued fight for civil rights, and his dedication to representing all of the minority groups that make up San Francisco.

Mayor Brown continues to make good on this promise. He championed and signed legislation requiring all companies doing business with the city to grant equal benefits to their workers' domestic partners. As mayor, he presided over seven domestic partner commitment ceremonies, the latest taking place in City Hall. His administration is also working toward guaranteeing universal health care for its 130,000 residents currently without medical coverage. Thanks to commitment from the City and the private sector, the University of California at San Francisco will break ground on its first new campus in over twenty years.

During his seven years at the helm of one of America's most diverse cities, Mayor Brown has shown continued leadership, creating continued vitality and economic energy in San Francisco. Respected in the ethnically diverse neighborhoods as well as in the burgeoning business community, a San Francisco Chronicle reporter said of Brown, "He's been magical in his ability to unite the city. There's been this unbelievable camaraderie between camps that have been at war for years."

As the city's first African American mayor, Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. continues to represent the past, present and future of civil rights and the cultural and intellectual diversity that symbolizes San Francisco's history of acceptance.

Mayor Brown has been a mentor and a friend since the early 1970's. He has been consistent in championing the rights and the plight of those shut out of the American dream, and he has never forgotten his humble roots in Mineola, Texas.

I had the privilege to serve with Mayor Brown while in the California Legislature. As speaker of the Assembly, Mayor Brown led our state through many challenging years. He was my "shadow Governor" and made sure that communities of color, women and the poor had a seat at the table.

As a skilled legislator, Speaker Brown guided me with my very aggressive and successful legislative agenda, which I continue to embrace with pride and humility.

Mayor Brown leads with his head and his heart. His intellect, his wisdom and his spirit is something to behold.

As one whose life and work has been enriched by this giant of a man, I say thank you, and Godspeed. Enjoy this next glorious chapter of your life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on November 20, 2003, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on Roll Call Number 654 on H.R. 1828, the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes."

RECOGNIZING WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize December 1, 2003, as World AIDS Day. On this day, many around the globe will celebrate the progress made in the battle against AIDS while raising awareness to the challenges that remain.

Worldwide, an estimated 42 million people are living with the disease; 11.8 million are young people aged 15 to 24. Furthermore, more than half of those newly infected with HIV are between 15 and 24 years old—six thousand new infections each day, or 4 every minute.

In Latin America, in 2001, approximately 130,000 adults and children were infected with HIV and 80,000 died of AIDS. Unfortunately, young people and women are becoming increasingly vulnerable.

As we recognize World AIDS Day and celebrate the successes achieved, let us remember that our young people are at the center of this global crisis. They are our greatest hope in fighting this deadly disease and we should

do all we can to deliver effective treatments and prevent new infections.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district had I been present, I would have voted yea on the following roll call votes:

Roll Call 650 (H.R. 1), Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act—On Motion to Instruct Conferees;

Roll Call 651 (H.R. 2660), Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004—On Motion to Instruct Conferees;

Roll Call 652 (H.J. Res. 63), Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003;

Roll Call 653 (H. Con. Res. 209) Commending the signing of the United States-Adriatic Charter, a charter of partnership among the United States, Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia;

Roll Call 654 (H.R. 1828), the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003; and

Roll Call 655 (H.R. 253), National Flood Insurance Reauthorization.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 82nd annual celebration of American Education Week, a time for us to acknowledge and praise the important role of education for our social and economic future. In the United States, the public school system provides the backbone of our youth's education, a system that deserves our active support and continued respect.

In 1919 the American Legion and the National Education Association joined together in concern over illiteracy rates among World War I draftees. The two groups agreed to support a national effort to increase awareness of the importance of education. The first American Education Week was observed from December 4–10, 1921. In many parts of our state, literacy remains a great challenge, and the need for a strong public education system is more important than ever.

Each year American Education Week focuses on a different issue; this year's theme is "Great Public Schools for Every Child—America's Promise." The week's co-sponsors include the United States Department of Education, National PTA, and various national educator associations.

Every child deserves the opportunity to attend a quality public school where he or she can learn and excel in a safe, stable environment. Students should receive an education that teaches not only practical skills and specific knowledge, but that also passes down our nation's core values. Public schools nurture American traditions such as tolerance, free-

dom, and equality that create productive citizens.

Public schools in Texas continue to show great progress in many areas. According to statistics compiled by the NEA, Texas ranks in the top ten states for 4th graders scoring well in math tests. More and more Texas schools are offering advanced placement courses, and Texas now ranks first in the nation for the proportion of students taking advanced math courses. Texas stands among the top four states nationally for the percentage of public primary schools offering foreign language immersion. Excellence in math and language are not only important personal education skills, but they are critical to our future economic growth.

At the same time, challenges remain. The Administration and the Congress have failed to make the financial investments needed to expand the areas of progress and provide the quality education needed by all of America's children. Elementary schools in Texas are overcrowded and many are desperately in need of major repairs. Quality teachers, our most valuable educational resources, are becoming more and more difficult to recruit and retain.

Despite the promise to leave no child behind, the current federal leadership has adopted policies that break the commitments to reform and accountability in the No Child Left Behind Act. Rural and inner city schools will suffer the most, as will children with special needs and challenges. The President's budget and congressional appropriations are underfunding the No Child Left Behind Act by as much as \$8 billion. Similarly, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) remains woefully underfunded, leaving states and school districts with the burden of complying with the important federal goal of providing a public education to all students.

This lack of funding contributes directly to the problems facing Texas schools and schools across the Nation: larger classes, schools closing earlier, cutting out after school and summer programs, and laying off teachers and staff. What is the response to this starvation diet by the Administration and congressional leaders? Private school vouchers . . . Blame the public schools for meeting standards without providing resources to comply . . . Failure to make the commitment to provide all students, of all backgrounds and needs, with the education they deserve and we as a society need.

The best investment in America's future is an investment in our children's education. We should take this week to give special attention to promoting quality in our nation's public schools; however, our vigilance should not end this week, but continue until every child has the chance to realize his or her educational potential.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LARRY CORNMANN, ROBERT SHARMAN, AND PAUL POLAK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to three

brilliant scientists from my home State. Larry Cornman, Robert Sharman, and Paul Polak have an impressive grasp of the most technical aspects of science, and they are using those talents to improve the quality of life of millions of people throughout the country and the world. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing these three gentlemen and their tremendous service to the global community.

Larry, Robert and Paul were recognized recently with three of the year's top fifty science and technology awards by Scientific American magazine. Larry and Robert, of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, developed a computer program that allows the Doppler radar on commercial airplanes to see turbulence at the edges of a storm. This system will serve to increase the safety and comfort for all future commercial air flights. Paul, who is the President of International Development Enterprises, helped to create a low-cost drip-irrigation system for Third World farmers. The system has the potential to aide more than 30 million rural farm families to escape poverty.

Mr. Speaker, Larry Cornman, Robert Sharman, and Paul Polak are bright, enthusiastic individuals who dedicate themselves to the noble endeavor of improving the lives of citizens around the world. These three men have demonstrated a passion for science that resonates in their extraordinary achievements. I am honored to pay tribute here today to these devoted scientists before this body of Congress. Congratulations on your awards, gentlemen. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA CARMICHAEL, FORMER NORCO CITY COUNCILMEMBER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Norco, CA are exceptional. Norco has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Barbara Carmichael is one of these individuals. After 13 years of service to the city, Barbara will step down as a councilmember.

Barbara moved to Norco in 1980 and quickly became involved in the community as a 4-H leader. As an honorary FFA Chapter farmer Barbara truly fit in to the rural lifestyle of Norco. Barbara has been involved with many community organizations including the Chamber of Commerce Fair Committee, a Foundation Board Member for Corona Regional Hospital and member of the Riverside Community Hospital college advisory board. She has also represented the City of Norco as a Mosquito Abatement Trustee, on the Economic Development Advisory Council, the Ad Hoc Committee for the retention of the Naval Warfare Assessment Center. She is a member of the Corona/Norco School Advisory Board and the host of monthly Senior Town Hall meetings. She is also the current President of the Norco Seniors and Pet Relief organization and is a

Charter and active member of the Norco Horsemen's Association.

Barbara was first elected to the Norco City Council in November 1990, was elected Mayor in 1992 and 1998. She has served as Mayor Pro-Tempore three times. During her tenure on the Norco City Council Barbara has accomplished an enormous amount for the residents of Norco including the construction of five low-to-moderate income homes; a pilot curbside recycling program and the Sixth Street Façade program; a Directional Sign Program for new homes was approved; a new City Hall was opened; an agreement was reached with the City of Jurupa for the purchase of desalter water; the Lake Norconian Club and central hotel were designated as historic landmarks; the second phase of senior housing was approved; a new senior center was completed; the Animal Keeping Ad Hoc Committee was formed; the proposal to purchase Hidden Valley Golf Club was rejected and barbed wire was prohibited adjacent to equestrian trails.

Barbara's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Norco, California. She has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she steps down from the Norco City Council.

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE DAY

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an issue that is too often overlooked in our society: the problem of suicide.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, a suicide occurs once every 18 minutes. In the year 2000, we lost 29,350 people to suicide. It is the third leading killer of children ages 10 to 14 in the U.S., causing 7.2 percent of the total deaths in that age group. For children ages 15 to 19, the percentage jumps to 12 percent. When most people are starting a family and beginning their careers, between the ages of 25 and 34, suicide is the number two cause of death.

Too often suicide has been stigmatized as a weakness or character flaw. Instead, suicide must be viewed as it truly is: a symptom of mental illness. Viewing suicide as such allows us to recognize the warning signs (including depression, reckless behavior, substance abuse, and a drastic change in attitude and behavior) and helps encourage people to seek help.

While the number of males who commit suicide is about four times higher than the number of females, it is important that we pay special attention to suicide attempts among females, especially teenage girls. It is estimated that women attempt suicide at a three-to-one margin. In the case of teenage girls, these attempts are often a cry for help at a very confusing time in their lives.

We lose one person to suicide every 18 minutes. To put this in perspective, this

equates to nearly 13,000 more deaths per year than homicide. We must do more to educate people about suicide, thereby helping to prevent it. For this reason I am sponsoring a Concurrent Resolution in support of National Survivors of Suicide Day and the ideals it upholds. This resolution recognizes and praises the work that numerous public and private sector groups carry out to raise awareness about suicide and provide treatment for depression.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAIL ACT

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to reintroduce the Camino Real de los Tejas National Historical Trail Act. This legislation would recognize the historical significance of the oldest highway system in Texas.

Translated, camino real means "royal road" and was used exclusively to describe roads between economically important Spanish towns and Spanish capitals. In keeping with its roots, the Camino Real de los Tejas was the first overland route from the Rio Grande to the Red River Valley in Louisiana, and contributed enormously to the settlement and development of the Texas frontier. First traveled in 1689, for the next 300 years the road was worn by traders, immigrants, mail carriers, missionaries, cattlemen and their herds, soldiers, and settlers into an early-day "super-highway".

We would not only pay homage to our ancestors by designating the Camino Real as a National Historic Trail, but also develop a positive tool for economic development and historical preservation in the many towns and cities along the route. By promoting the preservation of this historic resource, the public will gain an opportunity to learn and small, rural communities will have greater opportunity for cultural tourism.

The bill I am introducing today contains special provisions to ensure that trail designation will not impair private property rights. Unlike prior versions of the bill, this one designates the trail only on public lands. Land condemnation is prohibited, and only willing sellers will be approached for acquisition purposes. No private lands will be included in the trail designation unless the private property owner affirmatively opts in.

Spanish conquistador Cabeza de Vaca, the first European to explore Texas, ventured up and down this trail. Both Davy Crockett and General Santa Anna journeyed to battle at the Alamo by way of the Camino Real.

The trails deserve national recognition for their tremendous historical and cultural value. In marking the trail, we honor our history and heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support and cosponsor the reintroduction of the Camino Real de los Tejas National Historical Trail Act. Join me in building up communities rich in history and economic opportunities.

IN HONOR OF CLEVELAND POLICE
COMMANDER MARVIN CROSS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Commander Marvin Cross, upon the occasion of his retirement from the Cleveland Police Department—Following twenty-two years of dedication to the citizens of Cleveland; and twenty-two years of honor to the force and to the badge.

Commander Cross was born and raised in Cleveland, and graduated from Max Hayes High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Myers University, and later graduated from the FBI Academy. In 1981, Commander Cross joined the city of Cleveland Police Department. By 1983, Commander Cross was promoted to the position of Detective, and within ten years, he was appointed to the position of Sergeant in the 6th District. His extensive experience regarding hate crimes, combined with his passion for social justice, led Commander Cross to create the city of Cleveland's Ethnic Intimidation/Hate Crime Task Force. This Task Force has resulted in a 62 percent reduction of hate crime activities since 1998.

Commander Cross' great intellect, combined with his exceptional interpersonal skills, brought people and agencies together for the common good and protection of Cleveland citizens. He developed a Fugitive Tracking System that led to the apprehension of over 2,500 fugitives; and reduced fugitive tracking expenses by more than forty percent.

The list of Commander Cross' accomplishments and accolades is long and far-reaching. He was twice-named Police Officer of the Year; was honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the city of Cleveland Police Department; and was bestowed the Red Cross Biennial Volunteer Hero Award, among others.

These extraordinary honors reflect the extraordinary nature of Commander Cross himself. His integrity, vision, heart, and concern for others has served to uplift the lives of countless families and individuals within our community. Commander Cross in the ultimate hero and role model for our youth. His sincere concern for our children has been witnessed through his involvement in the Amateur Athletic Youth Basketball League, the Special Olympics Torch Run and the Greater Cleveland Big Brothers/Big Sisters Shadow Blue Program.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and celebration of Commander Marvin Cross, as we reflect on his twenty-two years of significant service to the citizens of Cleveland. Commander Cross' positive nature, personal integrity, expertise, and focus on protecting his constituents in the city of Cleveland have all served to raise the grade of safety and protection within the City limits to an exceptional level. Commander Cross' outstanding years of service has been a guiding force within our community, and is worthy of our gratitude and recognition. We wish Commander Cross and his entire family many blessings, great happiness and abundant health today and always.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 626 and 627 I was absent because I was giving a major lecture on science and engineering to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both issues.

ON THE DEATH OF JAMES A. GRAHAM, FORMER NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, North Carolina lost a great friend today. For 36 years, the Old North State's agricultural interests were overseen with care, love, and passion by Jim Graham. For 36 years, Jim Graham served as Commissioner of Agriculture for my State, and he was probably the most beloved figure in public life in 20th century North Carolina.

Anyone who met the Commissioner—whether they met him once, or knew him for all of his 82 years—knew the same Jim Graham. He was affable, kind, and passionate. Mr. Graham grew up in Rowan county, was educated at State College (now North Carolina State University), and held several agriculture-related jobs before he entered public service, including managing the Dixie Classic fair in my home town of Winston-Salem. He was appointed Commissioner of Agriculture in the summer of 1964, was elected to the position that fall, and held it until his retirement in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, the Commissioner was a passionate member of the other political party. So passionate, in fact, that when introduced at political rallies, he would let out the loudest donkey bray you have ever heard. But while he brayed loudly for his party, he never spoke louder, or with more passion, than he did when preaching for the betterment of the North Carolina farmer. He always held the land, and the people who worked the land, in the highest esteem.

With all the changes that have occurred in North Carolina agriculture in the last 30 years, it is a good thing that we had Jim Graham looking out for us. When he was looking out, he was looking forward. He took the Tar Heel State from near-total dependence on the golden leaf of tobacco, to today, when tobacco income is complemented by hogs, poultry, winegrapes, soybeans, sweet potatoes, and more.

He was a positive voice for the future of North Carolina, and just as he would never forget your name, not soon will many forget his ever-present cigar and cowboy hat, his kind manner and love for his state.

No farmer anywhere had a better friend than Jim Graham. No State in the Union had a better public servant than Jim Graham. Well done, good and faithful servant.

HONORING SAMUEL HUNTINGTON
AND BILL STANLEY

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two individuals who are genuine Connecticut treasures—Samuel Huntington and Bill Stanley.

On Monday I will attend a ceremony to reinter Samuel Huntington. Mr. Huntington will be laid to rest in Norwich, Connecticut, a community in the Second District, which I am proud to represent.

Samuel Huntington was born in Windham, Connecticut on July 2, 1732. He did not have the benefit of a formal public education as he was the eldest son and his father needed him to help work the family farm. Possessing a fine mind, when he was finished with his farm chores he devoted himself to reading. Mr. Huntington enjoyed studying the law and when he turned 22 he left the farm to pursue his interest. Unable to afford a formal legal education, he studied on his own. The library of an attorney in a neighboring town provided him with access to the necessary books—his own determination accomplished the rest.

He did well. In 1774, he became an associate judge in the superior court. Mr. Huntington was among those who early on spoke against British tyranny. In October 1775, his wisdom and patriotism earned him an appointment by the Connecticut General Assembly to represent the colony in the Continental Congress.

In the July 1776 Mr. Huntington joined his colleagues in voting for the Declaration of Independence. In 1779, Mr. Huntington served as president of the Congress. As such, some say he was the first President of the United States. He remained a member of that honorable body until 1781, when ill health forced him to retire. Samuel Huntington died on January 5, 1796.

Recently the Norwich Historical Society embarked on a campaign to renovate the tomb of Mr. Huntington and his wife. Over time the tomb had decayed and was in danger of collapse. Our Founding Fathers deserve more, and the leaders of Norwich have responded.

The second individual I recognize is President of the Norwich Historical Society, William Stanley. He is also one of Connecticut's treasures. Bill organized the effort to renovate the tomb and I was very pleased when he called me for support. Bill is a good man and a good friend.

For five decades Bill Stanley has dedicated himself to public service. His resume shows an individual who has a profound devotion to his community and has worked to make it a better place in which to live, work and raise a family.

In 1963, Bill was chairman of the Norwich Flood Rehabilitation Drive and from 1966 to 1970 he was a state senator, representing the 19th District. Over the decades he has served as chairman of the Eastern Connecticut District of the American Cancer Society; led Eastern Connecticut Recruitment for the Boy Scouts of America; been treasurer of the Norwich Industrial Park Association; served as director of the William W. Backus Hospital, and has been vice chairman of the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority.

Motivated by a desire to improve the lives of our senior citizens, Bill became the founder, treasurer and president of St. Jude Common, a non-profit elderly housing facility in Norwich. St. Jude's provides high quality housing. Bill has also dedicated his time to Norwich Free Academy and served as Chairman of the Norwich Charter Revision Commission.

Bill's public service has not gone unnoticed. He is the 1995 recipient of Norwich Rotary's Outstanding Citizen Award and in 1991 the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce named him Norwich's Citizen of the Year. Bill is the unofficial Norwich historian, having published several books chronicling the city's past. His "Once Upon a Time" column has appeared in both the New London Day and the Norwich Bulletin.

These are merely a few of the public citations from Bill's years of service. They do not include the many times Bill quietly helped people by making a phone call or offering good advice. Bill served in the Marine Corps. He is a Korean War veteran.

I am proud that I was able to be of some assistance to Bill Stanley in ensuring one of our nation's Founding Fathers received the honor and respect he deserves as America's first president.

IN RECOGNITION OF LILA DE CHAVES-CHRONOPOULOS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lila De Chaves-Chronopoulos. A remarkable woman, Lila De Chaves-Chronopoulos serves as President of the National Museum of Greek Folk Art, Lifetime Honorary Chair and Executive Global Cultural Director of the Euro-American Women's Council, and President of the Hellenic Federation of Friends of Museums. It is a pleasure to honor this ambassador of Greek folk art and culture.

Lila De Chaves-Chronopoulos has had a distinguished career as an ethnologist specializing in historical and ethnic textiles, jewelry and costumes. Among other accomplishments, she is currently professor of visual arts at American University in Athens. Ms. De Chaves-Chronopoulos is known for her participation in numerous international exhibitions of metalwork in Greece and abroad. She has also given various seminars through the American Women's Organization of Greece, as well as consulting for Hellenic organizations in Greece and the United States. In addition to her educational efforts, Ms. De Chaves-Chronopoulos has worked tirelessly to preserve Hellenic culture and promote Hellenic achievements to audiences around the world.

Granddaughter of an immigrant to America, Lila has strong ties to both the Greek and American communities. Her grandfather, Konstantin V. Chrones, came to the United States at the turn of the century and lived and worked here for 15 years prior to returning to his native Greece to raise a family. Lila's grandfather passed his American experience and his love of Greek culture on to his children and grandchildren. Lila's father, Vassilis K. Chronopoulos, was a well known doctor and revered philanthropist in Greece. The in-

fluence of her grandfather's American experience and her father's philanthropic efforts profoundly shaped Lila's life. Just as Lila has helped increase American awareness of Hellenic culture, she has also helped Europeans to understand and appreciate America's unique history, culture and way of life.

As President of the friends of the Museum of Greek Folk Art, Lila has authored numerous articles in both scholarly and mass media publications. Over the years, Lila De Chaves has shared the breadth and depth of her vast knowledge of folk art and jewelry with a wide audience. Her endless efforts to support the arts and culture, and to enlighten communities around the world are commendable.

In recognition of her outstanding achievements, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lila De Chaves-Chronopoulos.

TRIBUTE TO HANK STOVALL,
BROOMFIELD COUNTY AND CITY
COUNCILMAN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding work of Hank Stovall. Hank served for 24 years on the Council for the City and County of Broomfield as a member for Ward 4 and as Mayor Pro Tempore for a number of years.

Along with his colleagues on the city council, Hank helped make Broomfield the diverse and vibrant community that it has become today. He has also helped preserve the high quality of life that citizen in this community at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains have come to expect and appreciate.

The citizens of Broomfield have benefited greatly from Hank's dedicated leadership. He helped secure a quality transportation system in the Broomfield region, including support for the Northwest Parkway, an important highway that will connect this community with the Denver International Airport and other important access roads in the region. This Parkway will also include an open space buffer that will add to the quality of the Broomfield neighborhoods as well as increase transportation efficiency and access. He also worked with coalition to improve the US 36 highway corridor and the Broomfield intersections to this important highway corridor.

He also has helped ensure that Broomfield's transition from a city to a county was smooth, effective and successful. He and his colleagues recognized the importance of establishing Broomfield as a city and county so as to better serve its citizens. Before the conversion to a county, residents were required to travel to four distant county offices as the city was spread across four separate counties. By making Broomfield a county, the citizens of this community can now enjoy the efficiencies that come with that designation as well as further develop the sense of community that he and others have sought to accomplish.

Hank has been involved in many regional and State governmental committees, authorities, task forces and coalitions. All of this work was designed to promote effective governmental function and quality services to citizens and communities in the Broomfield region.

But perhaps his most lasting legacy will be his leadership on issues related to Rocky Flats, the former U.S. Department of Energy nuclear weapons production facility just south of the city and county. He brought his knowledge of nuclear issues to the table as strategies and approaches for cleaning up this facility were being discussed and developed. He insisted that the cleanup be thorough, cost effective and protective of the health, safety and environment of the surrounding communities. He was also a strong proponent of preserving the open space resources at this site and was an early advocate of designating the site as a national wildlife refuge. His support, as well as the support of other leaders surrounding the site, helped make this a reality.

He remained very concerned with public health and safety issues related to this site and its cleanup, closure and conversion to a national wildlife refuge. He was especially concerned about the health and safety of the workers at the site and pushed for instituting a high level of safety in all facets of the work done there.

Hank leaves the Broomfield County and City Council with a long and distinguished record of accomplishment and service. The citizens of Broomfield enjoy a quality of life, a strong sense of community and a solid reputation for service and leadership on regional issues because of Hank's involvement and public service work. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Hank every success in his future endeavors and hope that he remains active in community and regional issues for years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE FERTITTA FAMILY
105TH ANNIVERSARY RE-
UNION

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2003

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 105th Anniversary of the highly regarded Fertitta Family in Galveston, Texas. The Fertitta family generously devotes their time, integrity, and leadership to every community their journey encounters.

This family reunion is a rare celebration of perseverance, achievement, loyalty, and love of an incredible ancestry. The Fertitta family heritage traces their roots back more than a century ago to Palermo, Sicily where a courageous young man named Joseph Fertitta made the pivotal decision to come to America in 1897.

Joseph and Olivia Fertitta have inspired hundreds of descendants to travel across the country to Galveston, Texas to celebrate the trials and joys of life together as a family. It is to he and his wife Olivia that a profound amount of respect and honor should be paid to, and upon whose base this incredible family is built upon.

Mr. Speaker, on November 29th, this family will commemorate its anniversary of over 100 years of faith and love. I ask you, and all of my colleagues, to join me in recognizing this remarkable family's triumph that has passed the test of time and remains a shining example of America's strength and unity.

H. CON. RES. 257—PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO HARRY W. COLMERY

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 257 urging President Bush to bestow this Nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award, on Harry W. Colmery, former national commander of The American Legion.

Mr. Colmery is credited with drafting the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, otherwise known as the World War II "GI Bill of Rights." The GI Bill not only enabled the successful transition of millions of World War II veterans back to civilian life, but also paved the way to create America's modern middle class.

In fact, about 7.8 million men and women were educated or trained by the World War II GI Bill, arguably our most successful domestic program ever.

With our brave service men and women currently engaged in dangerous military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and other areas of the world in support of the Global War on Terrorism, it is so critical for Congress to continue to provide our military personnel with top-notch benefits like today's Montgomery GI Bill. As I travel throughout the first district of South Carolina, veterans and current service members always remind me of the importance of these educational benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to support this Resolution to honor Harry W. Colmery, a man of extraordinary wisdom and foresight.

VETERAN TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF GUNNERSMATE WILLIAM L. WRAY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of Chief Gunnersmate William L. Wray.

Chief Gunnersmate Wray served as a United States Navy Frogman in World War II and the Korean War. Throughout his military career Chief Gunnersmate Wray earned three purple hearts, the World War II Commemorative Medal, and was a Prisoner Of War in World War II. He also received the Korean War Medal with two stars, United Nations Korean Service Medal, and numerous other accolades for his service.

At a time when we are once again at war, it is necessary to recognize the achievements of these national heroes. Due to their dedication, service, and sacrifice, they deserve our unwavering admiration and our unending gratitude.

Our country often takes for granted the freedoms and liberties our service men and women risk their lives to protect; yet by continuing to honor our veterans we preserve our nation's future by commemorating their past.

Thank you, Chief Gunnersmate Wray, for your service and sacrifice. You are a true hero.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES AND CELEBRATES JOHN G. MCCORMACK CHIEF OF POLICE CHIEF, MANALAPAN, NJ

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Chief John G. McCormack, who has served the Manalapan Police Department and the people of Manalapan for 30 years and as chief for 7 years.

In his 30 years of service he has risen through the ranks of the Manalapan Police Department, starting as a police dispatcher in 1973.

Along with his commitment to the department he has spent numerous hours serving as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Township of Manalapan for the last seven years. He also serves as the Municipal Disaster Control Director for the town and sits on the Monmouth County Community Crisis Response Planning Committee.

His dedication to his work earned him the honor of being named Chief of the Year by the Princeton Education Research Institute and the Law Enforcement Man of the Year by the Manalapan-Marlboro Post 972 Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

Prior to serving and protecting his community, Chief McCormack served his country. He served four years in the United States Air Force, including a tour in Vietnam.

As an inspiration to police officers in his department and the state of New Jersey, Chief McCormack has contributed significantly to the life of his community. He has earned our heartfelt appreciation for his efforts.

HONORING ST. PAUL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, and its Bishop, John Richard Bryant. On Sunday, November 23, 2003, St. Paul AME will celebrate seventy years of serving the greater Bay Area community.

The Reverend E.N. Elliott developed the foundations for the Berkeley Mission in 1933. He was very proud to report his three members to the African Methodist Episcopal 69th Annual Conference.

Early developmental meetings were held in the home of Rev. and Mrs. Speese, but the needs of a rapidly-growing congregation led to the establishment of a temporary church headquarters at the corner of Grove Street and Russell in Berkeley. The Sunday school was set up during the very first week at that site.

Later on, the property at 1630 Fairview was purchased under the leadership of Rev. H.C. Claybrook. The name, Berkeley Mission, was changed to St. Paul AME Church, and the Seal of Incorporation was secured in early 1937. In 1953, St. Paul moved to the current location at 2024 Ashby Avenue.

The St. Paul AME family has come a long way from its humble beginning. The congrega-

tion has expanded to over 1,100 members and continues to grow today. St. Paul enjoys the distinction of being the only African Methodist Episcopal Church in Berkeley, California. Its ministries provide a wide spectrum of service, offering food, clothing, and housing referrals for those in need. Additionally, its doors are open for meetings of Narcotics Anonymous, Alzheimer's, and diabetes support groups. Children in the Berkeley community are served through education, tutorial and Saturday programs, as well as exercise classes.

Today, St. Paul AME is under the guidance of Presiding Prelate Fifth Episcopal District Bishop John Richard Bryant and Episcopal Supervisor Reverend Dr. Cecelia Williams Bryant. Reverend Dr. Vernon Steven Burroughs is the Presiding Elder and Reverend Dr. Allen Williams is the Pastor.

I take great pride in joining friends, family, and the congregation to salute St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church and its leader, the extraordinary Bishop John Bryant, on the seventieth anniversary of service.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL CONSOLIDATION ACT OF 2003

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, the Department of the Treasury Inspector General Consolidation Act of 2003, which will promote efficiencies and improve oversight at the Department of the Treasury. The measure I am proposing will merge two existing Inspector General offices at the U.S. Treasury—the Office of Inspector General of the Treasury (OIG) and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA)—into a new office called the Office of the Treasury Inspector General (TIG).

The Department of the Treasury is the only agency with two Inspectors General. The benefit derived by consolidating OIG and TIGTA will be better oversight for all of Treasury, including the IRS, while ensuring that the new organization has all the same powers and authority as its predecessors have under current law.

The legislation I am introducing is necessary because the creation of the Department of Homeland Security has resulted in significant reduction in agencies and personnel at Treasury. The U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Secret Service, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and most of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms have been moved to the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice. The current TIGTA and OIG structure does not recognize the new organizations, where IRS has 87 percent and the rest of Treasury has 13 percent of the remaining personnel resources.

A single, elevated IG will provide strong oversight to all of Treasury's current operations. The Department also will gain the efficiencies from the merger by eliminating duplication and creating a more effective and efficient operation to further the mission of both offices.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT
FIRST CLASS KELLY M. BOLOR**

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Sergeant First Class Kelly M. Bolor, 137th Quartermaster Company, United States Army Reserve, located in South El Monte, California. This brave and compassionate man dedicated his life to protecting our country and the freedoms that we all enjoy. On November 15, 2003, Sergeant First Class Kelly Bolor made the ultimate sacrifice and was killed while serving our country during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant First Class Kelly Bolor was born December 20, 1965, and raised in Hawaii with his twin brother. He graduated from Lahainaluna High School in June 1984. Shortly after graduating Sergeant First Class Bolor enlisted in the United States Army, beginning an almost 20 year military career.

In 1984, Sergeant First Class Bolor graduated from a 92Y Supply Specialist course from Fort Jackson. Subsequently, in 1986, he completed Fort Benning Airborne School. On March 1, 1998, Sergeant Bolor joined the United States Army Reserve. He rose to the rank of Platoon Sergeant for the 137th Quartermaster Company on January 10, 2002.

Sergeant First Class Bolor is a Desert Storm veteran, and served overseas duty in Fort Wainwright, Alaska in 1988, Southwest Asia in 1991, Camp Humphrey's Korea in 1993 and finally Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

Sergeant First Class Kelly M. Bolor served our country as a true patriot and defender of democracy. He leaves behind widow Kelly Bolor and son Kyle, age three. Let us preserve the memory of Kelly M. Bolor so that his son may learn about his father, who was a kind-hearted man who put the safety and well-being of his country and fellow soldiers first.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF KENNETH WYLIE**

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Kenneth Wylie. Kenneth has been a leader in the San Antonio community, and he serves as a positive role model for future generations of labor advocates.

Born in Union Valley, Texas, Kenneth married Dorothy Sutton Wylie. He is the proud father of Sharron Kay Pacheck, Terry Marshall Wylie, and James Arthur Gross and the beloved grandfather to 11 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Kenneth began working at Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in 1948 where he served as a lineman, an installer, a telephone repeaterman, and a central office technician. During his years of service at Southwestern Bell, he served his fellow workers as a job steward, a chief steward, legislative director, and vice president for the Communications Workers of America (CWA). He also served

for 13 years as the president of the CWA, Local 6143.

A tireless advocate for labor in local, state, and national politics, Kenneth also worked for the rights of his fellow workers as a member of the State Democratic Committee and the San Antonio and Texas AFL/CIO Councils.

Kenneth has also worked to improve his local community serving on the boards of the San Antonio United Way, San Antonio's Council on Alcoholism, the USO, Goodwill Industries, and San Antonio's Centro 21 Committee.

I have had the great privilege of knowing Kenneth for many years, and I am well acquainted with his good works, his strong moral character, and his selfless dedication to his friends, families, co-workers, and community. I rise today to honor Kenneth Wylie's legacy of community service and his commitment to protect the rights of American working men and women.

RECOGNIZING COLIN A. HANNA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Colin A. Hanna for his eight years of service as commissioner of the Chester County Board of Commissioners.

Colin Hanna was first elected Chester County Commissioner in November 1995 and ran successful races to serve as Chairman of the Chester County Board of Commissioners in 1998, 1999, 2001 and this year, 2003. After only six months, he was elected by his colleagues to represent the County on the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, which he chaired for two terms spanning four years from 1996 to 2000. He was also appointed Chairman of the Housing Authority of Chester County where he saved the agency from insolvency by undertaking an extensive reorganization process. During his tenure, the nationally-acclaimed County comprehensive plan, "Landscapes," was adopted and Chester County achieved its first bond-rating increase in 28 years, bringing it to the second highest in the Commonwealth. Mr. Hanna is a two-time recipient of the Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence—once with his commissioner colleagues and once individually.

Mr. Hanna has lived in Chester County virtually his entire life and chose to attend college at the University of Pennsylvania in nearby Philadelphia where he met his wife Pricie in 1967. After graduating from the University in 1968, Colin was commissioned an officer in the U.S. Navy. When his military service ended, he became employed with the CBS network in New York before returning to Chester County in 1972. He continued his work with CBS in Philadelphia before becoming President of Industrial Advertising Incorporated, which at the time was Chester County's largest advertising agency. Eventually, he would sell his ownership in the agency and pursue work in the marketing field as a management and executive search consultant. He continued his consulting work until 1991 when he founded PC Helper, a computer support and maintenance firm specializing in small business networks. In 1996, Colin Hanna sold

his firm and chose to devote his time and energy to public service and the job of County Commissioner where he has remained a tremendous asset to the community. Mr. Hanna brings with him to the Chester County Board of Commissioners years of hard work, experience and leadership that has allowed him to be a driving force in making Chester County a better place for all of its residents.

I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Colin Hanna for his exemplary citizenship and service to our community. His enduring devotion and unwavering support has made him a man for which Chester County and our entire nation can be proud.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO MOUNTAIN
PARK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER'S
EARTH STUDIES PROGRAM**

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to an award-winning Earth Studies Program at Mountain Park Environmental Center in Beulah, Colorado. The program provides children with the wonderful opportunity to learn about the environment while providing them an alternative to abusive lifestyles such as gangs and drugs. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing the Mountain Park Environmental Center's tremendous service to the Pueblo community.

The Earth Studies Program is a yearlong outdoor-based education course that covers basic subjects in language art, math, social studies, and geography in addition to environmental sciences. Students learn firsthand about ecosystems, tree identification, and stream ecology. Recently, the Earth Studies program was recognized by the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education for excellence in environmental education. It is truly an outstanding program.

Mr. Speaker, the Earth Studies Program at Mountain Park Environmental Center is an educational organization that encourages students to develop a love for nature. The program enriches the lives of Pueblo's students and the entire Colorado community. The Earth Studies Program is a learning experience that positively affects every child who is able to participate. It is my honor today to pay tribute to this fine educational program before this body of Congress.

**TRIBUTE TO RAY BECKER, PRESIDENT,
BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION**

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Southern California are exceptional. Southern California has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who

willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Ray Becker is one of these individuals. Ray will be stepping down as President of the Building Industry Association of Southern California (BIA) and I would like to thank him for his service.

Ray originally came to the Inland Empire in the early 1980s as Vice President and Division Manager with the Lusk Company. During 20 years in Southern California real estate development, Ray has managed the construction of more than 3,000 homes and 16,000 home sites. For eight years Ray taught Light Construction and Development Management at the University of California, Riverside.

Ray is also Senior Vice President of Lennar Communities Inland, a division of Lunar Homes of California. Lunar is a national real estate company listed on the New York Stock Exchange and is one of the largest public homebuilders in the United States. Under his leadership, Lunar acquires, plans, entitles, develops, markets, sells, and manages medium and large scale communities.

Ray has been an excellent President of BIA and continually promotes the building profession. He is also involved in California BIA and the National Association of Homebuilders. He is past President of the Inland Chapter of HomeAid, an industry charitable foundation, and has held the Presidency of the Youth Service Center and Parkview Community Hospital Foundation. Ray's commitment to the community and to Southern California is exemplary.

Ray's tireless passion for the building industry has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Southern California. I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many BIA members and homebuilders are grateful for his service and salute him as he steps down from his position.

H.R. 1964, THE HIGHLANDS STEWARDSHIP ACT

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the passage of H.R. 1964, the Highlands Stewardship Act.

The Highlands region is spread through parts of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania and covers more than two million acres of pristine, undeveloped land. In studies in 1992 and 2002, the National Forest Service recognized the Highlands as "nationally significant" and estimated that 5,000 acres of land are lost to development just in the New York and New Jersey portions of the Highlands.

The Highlands also serve as an "oasis" amid the urban centers of Philadelphia, Hartford, and New York. The region, with its networks of reservoirs and aquifers, supplies clean, safe drinking water for over 11 million Americans. At the moment, only 23% of those watershed lands are protected, with almost 100,000 of those acres being immediately threatened. Without these water sources, the sprawling metropolises we know today and New York and Philadelphia would have never developed.

The tourist value of this region cannot be overlooked. Every year, over 14 million people visit the Highlands. This total is higher than the number of people who visit Yellowstone National Park every year, and we don't even have a geyser.

Twenty million people live within a two hour drive of the Highlands. With the ever-increasing rigors of city and suburban life, it is important to have a place for families to unwind and interact with the natural splendors that are too often missing from their lives. The Highlands provides that and so much more. This bill will ensure that these natural beauties survive so that future generations can enjoy them as we do now.

IN HONOR OF FATHER MARINO FRASCATI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of and recognition of Father Marino Frascati, founding member of the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization—and spiritual guide, healer, and beloved mentor and friend to many in this Westside community for more than fifty years. Father Frascati, parish priest of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, continues to serve the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood with integrity, compassion, and grace, and was bestowed the honorary appointment of President for Life with the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization. Father Frascati has been a steady and focused instrument of healing, preservation, growth and hope along the streets of this neighborhood.

When others lost hope and turned away, Father Frascati dug in, continuing his quest to improve the lives of the families, seniors and individuals who live and work within this Westside community. His rare ability to connect with others and bring people and groups together for the common good has significantly improved all aspects of this neighborhood.

Father Frascati was instrumental in renovating and developing countless commercial and residential structures along Cleveland's Westside. Due to his persistence and personal meetings with Monsignor Barone, then Undersecretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood was the first community in Cuyahoga County to be awarded the Urban Development Action Grant for a neighborhood project. This grant resulted in the construction of Father Caruso Boulevard and restoration of the historical Gordon Square Arcade. Despite opposition and adversity, Father Frascati remains a tireless and unwavering champion of this neighborhood. Father Frascati established Nolasco Corporation which resulted in new housing for senior citizens and low income families. Additionally, Father Frascati has created strong and enduring bonds with local business owners, bringing businesses and jobs—like Bank One at the Gordon Square Arcade—back into the neighborhood.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude of Father Marino Frascati, whose compassion, commit-

ment and energy continues to create a haven of assistance, hope and renewal along the streets of Detroit-Shoreway and beyond. His presence, vision, leadership, and unwavering faith in the people and possibilities of this community have restored and uplifted the very foundation of this neighborhood—reclaiming the heart and soul of this community one brick, one senior citizen, one family at a time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 641, 642, 643, and 644, I was absent because I was receiving a major named award from and giving remarks to the national meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all four votes.

THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the lack of progress in the Middle East peace process. Aside from our own Nation's ongoing military operations in the war against terrorism, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the most important foreign policy issues being discussed and debated by my constituents.

Clearly, there is a wide range of points of view on this critically important issue, and they cover the range of the political spectrum. I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to outline some of my own thoughts on some of these subjects.

I should state at the outset that I believe Israel has a right to defend herself against the actions of Palestinian extremists. It would be the height of hypocrisy, Mr. Speaker, for our own country—engaged in its own fight against terrorists bent on destruction—to deny Israel the right to pursue those bent on her destruction. Since obtaining independence in 1948, Israel has been engaged in a near-constant struggle for survival.

The current violence, and Israel's military response to it, is a reflection and continuation of that struggle. There are some on the Palestinian side, many of whom have close ties—if not direct connections—to Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Authority, who desire nothing less than the destruction of the state of Israel. These are the very groups sending young Palestinians to detonate suicide bombs on buses, in pizza parlors, in sidewalk cafes, and even at Jewish religious celebrations. On that basis alone, Israel has no choice but to continue efforts to round up those responsible. Even prior to the eruption of the latest violence more than two years ago, Arafat refused to do so. He refuses to do so to this day.

It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that Arafat has abdicated his position as a responsible negotiator

and representative of the best interests of the Palestinian people. On too many occasions, he has walked away from the peace table and given tacit approval to renewed violence by Palestinian extremists. Arafat remains—for better or worse—the “chosen” representative of the Palestinian people. For real progress to occur, however, the Palestinian people need a prime minister with real authority—the authority to go after the extremists, the authority to negotiate with the government of Israel, and the authority to make decisions that will not be overturned at Arafat's whim. If a lasting peace in the Middle East is the ultimate goal, and I firmly believe that it must be, the Palestinian people must have a capable, effective prime minister. I am hopeful that Ahmed Qureia, sworn in as the Palestinian prime minister earlier this month, will be permitted to take the steps necessary to end the terror attacks against Israel and return the Palestinians to the peace table.

I am not opposed to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Neither, for that matter, are the people and government of Israel. That state, however, can only be established if it and the larger Arab world in turn recognize Israel's right to exist. Without that recognition, there can be no lasting peace. If Israel were to accept the establishment of an independent Palestinian state that maintained its opposition to Israel's existence, the country would only be ensuring its own destruction.

I firmly believe that our country should continue providing financial and military assistance to the Israeli people. As long as the nations surrounding Israel continue to provide assistance to those trying to destroy the country, the United States should continue its efforts to support her. As the region's only democratically elected government, Israel deserves our support.

Our Nation has an important role to play in the peace process, Mr. Speaker, and we should continue to do so. We can and should continue diplomatic efforts to bring a lasting peace to the region. It remains to be seen if the Arab states, which have called on us to play a more active role, will actually respect that role. I do not believe, however, that our involvement should extend to the deployment of U.S. troops to “police” any final peace agreement. Any agreement that requires peacekeepers to be deployed is flawed to begin with—it means neither side actually expects the other to abide by the agreement's provisions. We must pursue a comprehensive agreement that both sides accept.

Having accepted Israel's right to defend herself, I also believe there must come a time for negotiations and a legitimate peace process. Israel should make every effort to limit incursions into Palestinian-controlled areas. There must be recognition, both in this country and around the world, that both sides must be willing to talk. The Israelis have shown that willingness in the past, and have made significant proposals aimed at achieving a lasting peace. What remains, however, is the need for a serious commitment on the part of the Palestinians to return to the table and actively work with the Israelis.

In order for that to happen, though, the new Palestinian leadership must denounce terrorism once and for all and make a firm commitment to restrain, arrest, detain, and destroy those militant elements in Palestinian areas that want the violence to continue. After all,

there are groups who have stated that they will never accept cease-fire, nor respect any peace agreement. More than a firm commitment, however, the Palestinians must take firm action—or empower a prime minister to take firm action on their behalf.

In crisis, Mr. Speaker, there is opportunity. The only thing that remains is for both sides to accept the challenge, and take advantage of the opportunity. Peace in the region is long overdue, but it will take the active participation of both sides to achieve it.

HONORING PAUL J. SIMMERT OF
NORWICH, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cadet Paul J. Simmert of Norwich, Connecticut who was recently named Chief Petty Officer of the Nautilus 571 Division of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

At only 17 years of age, Paul will be in command of 50 cadets, ranging in age from 11 to 17 years. This appointment follows tremendous hard work and dedication, including the completion of regulation U.S. Navy courses and many months of training throughout the country over the past 4 years.

Having a father in the Navy inspired Paul's interest in serving his country at a very young age. At 12, he took the first steps toward what will be a very successful career in the U.S. Navy by joining the U.S. Sea Cadet Corps. Through this program, Paul has been able to take on important responsibilities and learn the ropes of the United States Navy.

Chief Petty Officer Simmert is an exemplary young man and is highly deserving of this great honor and responsibility. I am most proud to have him serving his peers in this capacity. Now more than ever, we need young men like Paul to take the lead in protecting the freedoms that this great country was founded on for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage the Members of the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Chief Petty Officer Paul J. Simmert in receiving this prestigious award and thanking him for the contributions he makes to his country.

IN RECOGNITION OF AN INTER-
FAITH CELEBRATION OF
THANKSGIVING

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of congregations in my district that will come together to give thanks in the true spirit of Thanksgiving. These congregations are of different faiths, different sects and different practices. Nonetheless, they have in common a love for our country and gratitude to our Creator for bringing them or their forebears to a democratic country where civil rights and individual freedoms are protected. This inspired them to plan a joint service to give thanks.

Thanksgiving is a holiday that belongs to every American. It unites our country and embodies the principles upon which our great nation was founded. The first Thanksgiving is an account of immigrants arriving on a remote continent, launching a new life, surviving dangerous conditions, encountering a different culture, and sitting down with strangers to enjoy the bounty of this land. As waves of new Americans have found welcome here, they have embraced American values and joined in celebrating Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving symbolizes the bond that unites the very first immigrants with every subsequent generation of Americans. When we recreate the meal eaten at the first Thanksgiving, we remember the importance of sharing, kindness and tolerance, and we are grateful for the rich bounty offered us by this country. This is a land filled with plenty—fertile soil, rich resources and, most of all, liberty. We also recall, with sadness, that although the early immigrants were greeted with friendship by the native Americans, they reciprocated with hostility, greed and intolerance. Thanksgiving gives us an opportunity to be at our best, to welcome friends and family into our homes, and to recall those who are not as well off. Many Americans take time to feed the hungry in Thanksgiving celebrations at homeless shelters, soup kitchens and neighborhood civic organizations.

The Pilgrims arrived in the new world in November 1620, too late to plant crops. Of 110 men and women who arrived here from Europe, fewer than 50 survived the first hard winter. With help from a neighboring tribe, the Pilgrims learned how to cultivate local produce. In the fall they celebrated the harvest with members of the tribe. Over time, this harvest celebration became an institution. In 1817 New York State adopted Thanksgiving Day as an annual custom. By the middle of the 19th century many other states also celebrated a Thanksgiving Day. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln appointed a national day of thanksgiving. Since then every subsequent President has issued a proclamation designating a day of Thanksgiving.

At dark times in our history the celebration of Thanksgiving has seemed especially poignant. For example, in 1942, London's Westminster Abbey held its first secular service in nine centuries, hosting a Thanksgiving event for U.S. troops stationed in England. More than 3,500 people filled the church, reveling in singing “The Star Spangled Banner” and “America the Beautiful”. Everything that marked their differences—geography, religion, race—seemed insignificant in comparison to the things that united them and the liberties they had joined in battle to defend.

In times of tragedy, Thanksgiving has served to rally our nation. Six days after the assassination of President Kennedy, President Lyndon Johnson addressed the nation on Thanksgiving Day. He asked his fellow citizens to remain “determined that from this midnight of tragedy we shall move toward a new American greatness.”

Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to the congregations that honor the true spirit of Thanksgiving by setting aside the differences among their faiths and joining together to celebrate the liberties and freedoms we all treasure.

H.R. 2417, INTELLIGENCE
AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2417. I voted for this bill earlier this year, but I cannot support it today.

I have concerns about a provision in the conference report that would expand financial surveillance authority of our intelligence agencies. I also had concerns about this provision in the first version of the bill that passed the House, but I supported the bill then in the hope that the language would be further clarified in the final conference report. It has not been.

Whereas currently banks, credit unions, and other financial institutions are required to provide certain financial data to authorized intelligence agencies and the Treasury Department, this legislation would expand the list of institutions to include car dealers, pawnbrokers, travel agents, casinos, and other businesses.

This expanded definition of "financial institution" may indeed be necessary for effective counterintelligence, foreign intelligence, and international operations of the United States. But since this will represent such a significant expansion of the powers of our intelligence agencies, I believe it is important that it be clear and not go further than necessary.

In particular, I am concerned that the language in the conference report only vaguely limits this expanded definition to financial information. I understand that report language makes this distinction more explicit, but that bill conferees objected to including this clarifying language in the conference report itself. The legislative intent of this provision is to expand surveillance in the area of financial—not other—information, but there are no assurances that this intent will be observed when the legislation is implemented.

Mr. Speaker, this provision in the conference report involves the privacy rights of Americans—rights that I believe strongly we must protect even as we work to combat terrorism. Because I'm concerned that this conference report does not strike the right balance, I am voting against it today.

COMMENDING BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ON EXEMPLARY EFFORTS TOWARD THEIR MILITARY GUARD AND RESERVE EMPLOYEES

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of many in the business and industry community who far exceed current-law requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, better known as USERRA. The act simply states that when a Reserve or Guard member returns from active duty he or she is entitled to the job that they left behind.

However, USERRA not only protects Reserve and Guard members and their families, it also gives America's business and industry a chance to be part of the ongoing effort to protect our freedoms.

Companies like Schering-Plough, ExxonMobil, SCANA Corporation, Wal-Mart, W. W. Grainger, International Paper, and the McNaughton-McKay Electrical Company in South Carolina, all have added enhancements such as paying the full salary deferential, continuing health and life insurance for the servicemembers and their families, and even creating special Web sites for spouses. These are outstanding corporate citizens and I applaud them.

With more than 150,000 reserve component service members still on active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism, this effort is very critical. Mr. Speaker, I urge all employers to not only follow the letter of the law with respect to mobilized Reservists, but to also do their part in supporting the war on terror.

VETERAN TRIBUTE FOR STAFF
SERGEANT BILLY J. WEBSTER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of Staff Sergeant Billy J. Webster.

Staff Sergeant Webster began his military service in the United States Navy during World War II, where he partook in raids on Tokyo Bay under the command of legendary Admiral Halsey. Following the conclusion of World War II, Staff Sergeant Webster joined the Air Force, and he concluded his military service with a posting at Little Rock United States Air Force Base in Arkansas. Staff Sergeant Webster received numerous awards throughout his armed services career. Some of these awards include the World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award with 2 Oak Leaves, and the National Defense Medal.

At a time when we are once again at war, it is necessary to recognize the achievements of these national heroes. Due to their dedication, service, and sacrifice, they deserve our unwavering admiration and our unending gratitude.

Our country often takes for granted the freedoms and liberties our service men and women risk their lives to protect; yet by continuing to honor our veterans we preserve our nation's future by commemorating their past.

Thank you, Staff Sergeant Webster, for your service and sacrifice. You are a true hero.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES AND CELEBRATES THE
CAREER OF HERBERT BARRACK

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Herbert Barrack, who has

served the Federal Environmental Protection Agency for 32 years.

A resident of Manalapan, he has risen through the ranks of the EPA by demonstrating his commitment to the protection of public health and the environment.

Under Herb's direction as the Chief Financial Manager of the New York Regional Office of Policy and Management, the department has expanded its capacity in administrative areas such as information systems management, financial management, grants management and human resources management.

Mr. Barrack was the first EPA Assistant Regional Administrator for Policy and Management, as well as the first Executive Director of the Administrator's Environmental Financial Advisory Board.

In 1994 Mr. Barrack became one of only two regional representatives on the Regulatory Policy Council, overseeing the EPA's implementation of new Executive Orders on Regulatory Development.

His dedication to his work earned him both the Silver and Gold Medal for Exceptional Service. Mr. Barrack has also received Presidential Rank Awards of SES Meritorious Executive three times in recognition of quality and efficiency in public service.

As an inspiration to his community and the state of New Jersey, Mr. Barrack has contributed significantly to the life of his community. He has earned our heartfelt appreciation for his efforts.

RECOGNIZING KAREN L.
MARTYNICK

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Karen L. Martynick for her twelve years of service as Commissioner on the Chester County Board of Commissioners.

Karen Martynick has been a Chester County Commissioner since 1992 and has served as Chairman of the Board for five years. As Commissioner, Ms. Martynick oversees a budget of \$450 million and a workforce of 2500 employees and is responsible for administering and funding a wide array of departments, programs and services.

Under Commissioner Martynick's leadership, Chester County implemented a new comprehensive land development plan called "Landscapes" which has received numerous awards and been cited as a model for other counties around the Commonwealth and the country. Her land use work resulted in her selection by Governor Ridge to participate on his Sound Land Use Advisory Committee. Ms. Martynick was also selected by her colleagues to chair the Sustainable Communities Task Force, a special initiative of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. In addition, she also serves on the Board of Directors of the Association and has chaired the Legislative and Community and Economic Development Committees. In 1999, Commissioner Martynick was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Counties. During her tenure, she has been named to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's "Honor Roll of Women" and in 1998 was selected by her colleagues throughout the state

as the Outstanding County Commissioner of the Year.

In addition to her duties as County Commissioner, Karen Martynick has served for ten years as a member of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA). As a SEPTA Board Member, Commissioner Martynick has been an advocate for increased public transit in the suburbs and pushed for improved service to Chester County. She has served on the Operations Committee and the Budget and Planning Committee of SEPTA and currently chairs the Administration Committee. In 2001, Ms. Martynick was named by Administrator Christie Todd Whitman as one of 15 local officials from around the country to serve on the EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee.

Karen Martynick has been active in her community for many years. She has served on the Board of Directors for the United Way of Chester County, the People's Light and Theatre Company and as President of the Friends of Historic Goshenville, where she was instrumental in raising money to preserve two historic buildings. She was active for many years with the Boy Scouts of America, most recently serving as a Merit Badge Counselor and as a member of the District Executive Search Committee. She also served on the Capital Campaign Committee for the Goshen Fire Company, the Women of Achievement Dinner Committee for the March of Dimes and has taught Sunday school at her church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me today in recognizing and honoring Karen L. Martynick for the hard work and civic dedication she has demonstrated over the years in making Chester County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania a better place to live.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PUEBLO MOTIVE SERVICE.

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable business in my district. Pueblo Motive Service has been serving the Pueblo community since 1946, and it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to their contributions to the people of Pueblo before this body of Congress and our nation.

The employees of Pueblo Motive Service have always approached their work with the customer in mind. The current owner, Jim Ward, often spends a large portion of his day on the phone discussing mechanical problems with his many customers. The store always maintains a family atmosphere. Longtime customers can often be found discussing old times with the store's owner and staff. There is even an honor system in which the store trusts its customers to place their payment in a mailbox when they are in a hurry.

In addition to its magnificent customer service, Pueblo Motive Service is also active in the community. Past owner Ralph Simmons made a significant donation to the University of Southern Colorado in order to help students enhance their education. To this day, Pueblo Motive Service continues to support the university's automotive parts and service program, which educates students in the automotive industry.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise before this body of Congress and our nation to call attention to the contributions of Pueblo Motive Service. Over the years, Pueblo Motive Service has been dedicated to keeping the citizens of Pueblo equipped with safe and reliable transportation. The business continues to serve the people of Pueblo with dedicated and friendly customer service and I would like to join the customers of Pueblo Motive Service in thanking them for their hard work.

A PARTNERSHIP COMMITTED TO DEMOCRACY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the President for highlighting the longstanding friendship between the United States and the United Kingdom in his recent speech delivered at Whitehall Palace in London. It is encouraging that this administration is taking a strong stand against tyranny, but I am further encouraged that we are not forced to travel this road alone. The history of the United States and the United Kingdom has been forged on the belief that freedom is the natural right of all men. It is the role of governments to preserve this right, not hinder it.

The conflict in Iraq is our joint commitment to promoting democracy in the 21st century. Our countries will not idly stand by while dictators, hunger, disease, war and corruption ravage human beings across the globe. However, the United States and United Kingdom cannot combat these evils alone. I therefore support the three pillars set forth by the President in combating tyranny. International organizations that are equal to the challenges of our world, free nations willing to meet evil by force, and a commitment to the international spread of democracy.

I support the President's vision to see peace and stabilization in the Middle East. I am hopeful that the world will one day see a secure Israel and an independent Palestinian state. The people of Israel and Palestine deserve our best efforts in helping them to achieve a future that restores peace and dignity to a land rich with history and culture. I share the President's passion spreading democracy and commit my efforts to help him achieve this end.

Below is the President's speech:

[Remarks by the President at Whitehall Palace, Royal Banqueting House-Whitehall Palace, London, England]

PRESIDENT BUSH DISCUSSES IRAQ POLICY AT
WHITEHALL PALACE IN LONDON

The President: Thank you very much. Secretary Straw and Secretary Hoon; Admiral Cobbald and Dr. Chipman; distinguished guests: I want to thank you for your very kind welcome that you've given to me and to Laura. I also thank the groups hosting this event—The Royal United Services Institute, and the International Institute for Strategic Studies. We're honored to be in the United Kingdom, and we bring the good wishes of the American people.

It was pointed out to me that the last noted American to visit London stayed in a glass box dangling over the Thames. (Laughter.) A few might have been happy to provide similar arrangements for me. (Laughter.) I

thank Her Majesty the Queen for interceding. (Laughter.) We're honored to be staying at her house.

Americans traveling to England always observe more similarities to our country than differences. I've been here only a short time, but I've noticed that the tradition of free speech—exercised with enthusiasm—(laughter)—is alive and well here in London. We have that at home, too. They now have that right in Baghdad, as well. (Applause.)

The people of Great Britain also might see some familiar traits in Americans. We're sometimes faulted for a naive faith that liberty can change the world. If that's an error it began with reading too much John Locke and Adam Smith. Americans have, on occasion, been called moralists who often speak in terms of right and wrong. That zeal has been inspired by examples on this island, by the tireless compassion of Lord Shaftesbury, the righteous courage of Wilberforce, and the firm determination of the Royal Navy over the decades to fight and end the trade in slaves.

It's rightly said that Americans are a religious people. That's, in part, because the "Good News" was translated by Tyndale, preached by Wesley, lived out in the example of William Booth. At times, Americans are even said to have a puritan streak—where might that have come from? (Laughter.) Well, we can start with the Puritans.

To this fine heritage, Americans have added a few traits of our own: the good influence of our immigrants, the spirit of the frontier. Yet, there remains a bit of England in every American. So much of our national character comes from you, and we're glad for it.

The fellowship of generations is the cause of common beliefs. We believe in open societies ordered by moral conviction. We believe in private markets, humanized by compassionate government. We believe in economies that reward effort, communities that protect the weak, and the duty of nations to respect the dignity and the rights of all. And whether one learns these ideals in County Durham or in West Texas, they instill mutual respect and they inspire common purpose.

More than an alliance of security and commerce, the British and American peoples have an alliance of values.

And, today, this old and tested alliance is very strong. (Applause.)

The deepest beliefs of our nations set the direction of our foreign policy. We value our own civil rights, so we stand for the human rights of others. We affirm the God-given dignity of every person, so we are moved to action by poverty and oppression and famine and disease. The United States and Great Britain share a mission in the world beyond the balance of power or the simple pursuit of interest. We seek the advance of freedom and the peace that freedom brings. Together our nations are standing and sacrificing for this high goal in a distant land at this very hour. And America honors the idealism and the bravery of the sons and daughters of Britain.

The last President to stay at Buckingham Palace was an idealist, without question. At a dinner hosted by King George V, in 1918, Woodrow Wilson made a pledge; with typical American understatement, he vowed that right and justice would become the predominant and controlling force in the world.

President Wilson had come to Europe with his 14 Points for Peace. Many complimented him on his vision; yet some were dubious. Take, for example, the Prime Minister of France. He complained that God, himself, had only 10 commandments. (Laughter.) Sounds familiar. (Laughter.)

At Wilson's high point of idealism, however, Europe was one short generation from

Munich and Auschwitz and the Blitz. Looking back, we see the reasons why. The League of Nations, lacking both credibility and will, collapsed at the first challenge of the dictators. Free nations failed to recognize, much less confront, the aggressive evil in plain sight. And so dictators went about their business, feeding resentments and anti-Semitism, bringing death to innocent people in this city and across the world, and filling the last century with violence and genocide.

Through world war and cold war, we learned that idealism, if it is to do any good in this world, requires common purpose and national strength, moral courage and patience in difficult tasks. And now our generation has need of these qualities.

On September the 11th, 2001, terrorists left their mark of murder on my country, and took the lives of 67 British citizens. With the passing of months and years, it is the natural human desire to resume a quiet life and to put that day behind us, as if waking from a dark dream. The hope that danger has passed is comforting, is understanding, and it is false. The attacks that followed—on Bali, Jakarta, Casablanca, Bombay, Mombassa, Najaf, Jerusalem, Riyadh, Baghdad, and Istanbul—were not dreams. They're part of the global campaign by terrorist networks to intimidate and demoralize all who oppose them.

These terrorists target the innocent, and they kill by the thousands. And they would, if they gain the weapons they seek, kill by the millions and not be finished. The greatest threat of our age is nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons in the hands of terrorists, and the dictators who aid them. The evil is in plain sight. The danger only increases with denial. Great responsibilities fall once again to the great democracies. We will face these threats with open eyes, and we will defeat them. (Applause.)

The peace and security of free nations now rests on three pillars: First, international organizations must be equal to the challenges facing our world, from lifting up failing states to opposing proliferation.

Like 11 Presidents before me, I believe in the international institutions and alliances that America helped to form and helps to lead. The United States and Great Britain have labored hard to help make the United Nations what it is supposed to be—an effective instrument of our collective security. In recent months, we've sought and gained three additional resolutions on Iraq—Resolutions 1441, 1483 and 1511—precisely because the global danger of terror demands a global response. The United Nations has no more compelling advocate than your Prime Minister, who at every turn has championed its ideals and appealed to its authority. He understands, as well, that the credibility of the U.N. depends on a willingness to keep its word and to act when action is required.

America and Great Britain have done, and will do, all in their power to prevent the United Nations from solemnly choosing its own irrelevance and inviting the fate of the League of Nations. It's not enough to meet the dangers of the world with resolutions; we must meet those dangers with resolve.

In this century, as in the last, nations can accomplish more together than apart. For 54 years, America has stood with our partners in NATO, the most effective multilateral institution in history. We're committed to this great democratic alliance, and we believe it must have the will and the capacity to act beyond Europe where threats emerge.

My nation welcomes the growing unity of Europe, and the world needs America and the European Union to work in common purpose for the advance of security and justice. America is cooperating with four other nations to meet the dangers posed by North

Korea. America believes the IAEA must be true to its purpose and hold Iran to its obligations.

Our first choice, and our constant practice, is to work with other responsible governments. We understand, as well, that the success of multilateralism is not measured by adherence to forms alone, the tidiness of the process, but by the results we achieve to keep our nations secure.

The second pillar of peace and security in our world is the willingness of free nations, when the last resort arrives, to retain* (sic) aggression and evil by force. There are principled objections to the use of force in every generation, and I credit the good motives behind these views.

Those in authority, however, are not judged only by good motivations. The people have given us the duty to defend them. And that duty sometimes requires the violent restraint of violent men. In some cases, the measured use of force is all that protects us from a chaotic world ruled by force.

Most in the peaceful West have no living memory of that kind of world. Yet in some countries, the memories are recent: The victims of ethnic cleansing in the Balkans, those who survived the rapists and the death squads, have few qualms when NATO applied force to help end those crimes. The women of Afghanistan, imprisoned in their homes and beaten in the streets and executed in public spectacles, did not reproach us for routing the Taliban. The inhabitants of Iraq's Baathist hell, with its lavish palaces and its torture chambers, with its massive statues and its mass graves, do not miss their fugitive dictator. They rejoiced at his fall.

In all these cases, military action was preceded by diplomatic initiatives and negotiations and ultimatums, and final chances until the final moment. In Iraq, year after year, the dictator was given the chance to account for his weapons programs, and end the nightmare for his people. Now the resolutions he defied have been enforced.

And who will say that Iraq was better off when Saddam Hussein was strutting and killing, or that the world was safer when he held power? Who doubts that Afghanistan is a more just society and less dangerous without Mullah Omar playing host to terrorists from around the world. And Europe, too, is plainly better off with Milosevic answering for his crimes, instead of committing more.

It's been said that those who live near a police station find it hard to believe in the triumph of violence, in the same way free peoples might be tempted to take for granted the orderly societies we have come to know. Europe's peaceful unity is one of the great achievements of the last half-century. And because European countries now resolve differences through negotiation and consensus, there's sometimes an assumption that the entire world functions in the same way. But let us never forget how Europe's unity was achieved—by allied armies of liberation and NATO armies of defense. And let us never forget, beyond Europe's borders, in a world where oppression and violence are very real, liberation is still a moral goal, and freedom and security still need defenders. (Applause.)

The third pillar of security is our commitment to the global expansion of democracy, and the hope and progress it brings, as the alternative to instability and to hatred and terror. We cannot rely exclusively on military power to assure our long-term security. Lasting peace is gained as justice and democracy advance.

In democratic and successful societies, men and women do not swear allegiance to malcontents and murderers; they turn their hearts and labor to building better lives. And democratic governments do not shelter terrorist camps or attack their peaceful neigh-

bors; they honor the aspirations and dignity of their own people. In our conflict with terror and tyranny, we have an unmatched advantage, a power that cannot be resisted, and that is the appeal of freedom to all mankind.

As global powers, both our nations serve the cause of freedom in many ways, in many places. By promoting development, and fighting famine and AIDS and other diseases, we're fulfilling our moral duties, as well as encouraging stability and building a firmer basis for democratic institutions. By working for justice in Burma, in the Sudan and in Zimbabwe, we give hope to suffering people and improve the chances for stability and progress. By extending the reach of trade we foster prosperity and the habits of liberty. And by advancing freedom in the greater Middle East, we help end a cycle of dictatorship and radicalism that brings millions of people to misery and brings danger to our own people.

The stakes in that region could not be higher. If the Middle East remains a place where freedom does not flourish, it will remain a place of stagnation and anger and violence for export. And as we saw in the ruins of two towers, no distance on the map will protect our lives and way of life. If the greater Middle East joins the democratic revolution that has reached much of the world, the lives of millions in that region will be bettered, and a trend of conflict and fear will be ended at its source.

The movement of history will not come about quickly. Because of our own democratic development—the fact that it was gradual and, at times, turbulent—we must be patient with others. And the Middle East countries have some distance to travel.

Arab scholars speak of a freedom deficit that has separated whole nations from the progress of our time. The essentials of social and material progress—limited government, equal justice under law, religious and economic liberty, political participation, free press, and respect for the rights of women—have been scarce across the region. Yet that has begun to change. In an arc of reform from Morocco to Jordan to Qatar, we are seeing elections and new protections for women and the stirring of political pluralism. Many governments are realizing that theocracy and dictatorship do not lead to national greatness; they end in national ruin. They are finding, as others will find, that national progress and dignity are achieved when governments are just and people are free.

The democratic progress we've seen in the Middle East was not imposed from abroad, and neither will the greater progress we hope to see. Freedom, by definition, must be chosen, and defended by those who choose it. Our part, as free nations, is to ally ourselves with reform, wherever it occurs.

Perhaps the most helpful change we can make is to change in our own thinking. In the West, there's been a certain skepticism about the capacity or even the desire of Middle Eastern peoples for self-government. We're told that Islam is somehow inconsistent with a democratic culture. Yet more than half of the world's Muslims are today contributing citizens in democratic societies. It is suggested that the poor, in their daily struggles, care little for self-government. Yet the poor, especially, need the power of democracy to defend themselves against corrupt elites.

Peoples of the Middle East share a high civilization, a religion of personal responsibility, and a need for freedom as deep as our own. It is not realism to suppose that one-fifth of humanity is unsuited to liberty; it is pessimism and condescension, and we should have none of it. (Applause.)

We must shake off decades of failed policy in the Middle East. Your nation and mine, in

the past, have been willing to make a bargain, to tolerate oppression for the sake of stability. Longstanding ties often led us to overlook the faults of local elites. Yet this bargain did not bring stability or make us safe. It merely bought time, while problems festered and ideologies of violence took hold.

As recent history has shown, we cannot turn a blind eye to oppression just because the oppression is not in our own backyard. No longer should we think tyranny is benign because it is temporarily convenient. Tyranny is never benign to its victims, and our great democracies should oppose tyranny wherever it is found. (Applause.)

Now we're pursuing a different course, a forward strategy of freedom in the Middle East. We will consistently challenge the enemies of reform and confront the allies of terror. We will expect a higher standard from our friends in the region, and we will meet our responsibilities in Afghanistan and in Iraq by finishing the work of democracy we have begun.

There were good-faith disagreements in your country and mine over the course and timing of military action in Iraq. Whatever has come before, we now have only two options: to keep our word, or to break our word. The failure of democracy in Iraq would throw its people back into misery and turn that country over to terrorists who wish to destroy us. Yet democracy will succeed in Iraq, because our will is firm, our word is good, and the Iraqi people will not surrender their freedom. (Applause.)

Since the liberation of Iraq, we have seen changes that could hardly have been imagined a year ago. A new Iraqi police force protects the people, instead of bullying them. More than 150 Iraqi newspapers are now in circulation, printing what they choose, not what they're ordered. Schools are open with textbooks free of propaganda. Hospitals are functioning and are well-supplied. Iraq has a new currency, the first battalion of a new army, representative local governments, and a Governing Council with an aggressive timetable for national sovereignty. This is substantial progress. And much of it has proceeded faster than similar efforts in Germany and Japan after World War II.

Yet the violence we are seeing in Iraq today is serious. And it comes from Baathist holdouts and Jihadists from other countries, and terrorists drawn to the prospect of innocent bloodshed. It is the nature of terrorism and the cruelty of a few to try to bring grief in the loss to many. The armed forces of both our countries have taken losses, felt deeply by our citizens. Some families now live with a burden of great sorrow. We cannot take the pain away. But these families can know they are not alone. We pray for their strength; we pray for their comfort; and we will never forget the courage of the ones they loved.

The terrorists have a purpose, a strategy to their cruelty. They view the rise of democracy in Iraq as a powerful threat to their ambitions. In this, they are correct. They believe their acts of terror against our coalition, against international aid workers and against innocent Iraqis, will make us recoil and retreat. In this, they are mistaken. (Applause.)

We did not charge hundreds of miles into the heart of Iraq and pay a bitter cost of casualties, and liberate 25 million people, only to retreat before a band of thugs and assassins. (Applause.) We will help the Iraqi people establish a peaceful and democratic country in the heart of the Middle East. And by doing so, we will defend our people from danger.

The forward strategy of freedom must also apply to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It's a difficult period in a part of the world that has

known many. Yet, our commitment remains firm. We seek justice and dignity. We seek a viable, independent state for the Palestinian people, who have been betrayed by others for too long. (Applause.) We seek security and recognition for the state of Israel, which has lived in the shadow of random death for too long. (Applause.) These are worthy goals in themselves, and by reaching them we will also remove an occasion and excuse for hatred and violence in the broader Middle East.

Achieving peace in the Holy Land is not just a matter of the shape of a border. As we work on the details of peace, we must look to the heart of the matter, which is the need for a viable Palestinian democracy. Peace will not be achieved by Palestinian rulers who intimidate opposition, who tolerate and profit from corruption and maintain their ties to terrorist groups. These are the methods of the old elites, who time and again had put their own self-interest above the interest of the people they claim to serve. The long-suffering Palestinian people deserve better. They deserve true leaders, capable of creating and governing a Palestinian state.

Even after the setbacks and frustrations of recent months, goodwill and hard effort can bring about a Palestinian state and a secure Israel. Those who would lead a new Palestine should adopt peaceful means to achieve the rights of their people and create the reformed institutions of a stable democracy.

Israel should freeze settlement construction, dismantle unauthorized outposts, and the daily humiliation of the Palestinian people, and not prejudice final negotiations with the placements of walls and fences.

Arab states should end incitement in their own media, cut off public and private funding for terrorism, and establish normal relations with Israel.

Leaders in Europe should withdraw all favor and support from any Palestinian ruler who fails his people and betrays their cause. And Europe's leaders—and all leaders—should strongly oppose anti-Semitism, which poisons public debates over the future of the Middle East. (Applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen, we have great objectives before us that make our Atlantic alliance as vital as it has ever been. We will encourage the strength and effectiveness of international institutions. We will use force when necessary in the defense of freedom. And we will raise up an ideal of democracy in every part of the world. On these three pillars we will build the peace and security of all free nations in a time of danger.

So much good has come from our alliance of conviction and might. So much now depends on the strength of this alliance as we go forward. America has always found strong partners in London, leaders of good judgment and blunt counsel and backbone when times are tough. And I have found all those qualities in your current Prime Minister, who has my respect and my deepest thanks. (Applause.)

The ties between our nations, however, are deeper than the relationship between leaders. These ties endure because they are formed by the experience and responsibilities and adversity we have shared. And in the memory of our peoples, there will always be one experience, one central event when the seal was fixed on the friendship between Britain and the United States: The arrival in Great Britain of more than 1.5 million American soldiers and airmen in the 1940s was a turning point in the Second World War. For many Britons, it was a first close look at Americans, other than in the movies. Some of you here today may still remember the "friendly invasion." Our lads, they took some getting used to. There was even a saying about what many of them were up to—in addition to be "overpaid and over here." (Laughter.)

At a reunion in North London some years ago, an American pilot who had settled in England after his military service, said, "Well, I'm still over here, and probably overpaid. So two out of three isn't bad." (Laughter.)

In that time of war, the English people did get used to the Americans. They welcomed soldiers and fliers into their villages and homes, and took to calling them, "our boys." About 70,000 of those boys did their part to affirm our special relationship. They returned home with English brides.

Americans gained a certain image of Britain, as well. We saw an island threatened on every side, a leader who did not waver, and a country of the firmest character. And that has not changed. The British people are the sort of partners you want when serious work needs doing. The men and women of this Kingdom are kind and steadfast and generous and brave. And America is fortunate to call this country our closest friend in the world.

May God bless you all. (Applause.)

VETERAN TRIBUTE FOR CAPTAIN HENRY (HANK) SCHEIBLE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of Captain Henry (Hank) Scheible.

Captain Scheible served our country during the Vietnam War in the United States Air Force. He flew 102 combat missions with over 500 hours of navigation combat time. Captain Scheible holds the Air Medal with 9 Oak Leaf Clusters. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross. Captain Scheible is also a recipient of the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and two Vietnam Service Medals.

At a time when we are once again at war, it is necessary to recognize the achievements of these national heroes. Due to their dedication, service, and sacrifice, they deserve our unwavering admiration and our unending gratitude.

Our country often takes for granted the freedoms and liberties our service men and women risk their lives to protect; yet by continuing to honor our veterans we preserve our nation's future by commemorating their past.

Thank you, Captain Scheible, for your service and sacrifice. You are a true hero.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES AND CELEBRATES HARRY J. KLIENKAUF, CHIEF OF POLICE CRANBURY, NJ

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Chief Harry J. Klienkauf, who has served the Cranbury Police Department and the people of Cranbury for 32 years and as chief for 12 years.

In his 32 years of service he has seen the department quadruple in size from four officers to 16. And under his leadership plans for a new police station have become a reality. The

16 officers will no longer have to work in a doublewide trailer, but will have a fully functional station to better serve the community.

Along with his commitment to the department, he has spent numerous hours in the schools teaching children the importance of safety. He established a first aid patrol for students, teaching them the fundamental skills that can save lives.

Aside from being a hardworking and dedicated police officer, Chief Klienkauf found time in his day to volunteer as a firefighter in his hometown. He also spent years serving on the local first aid squad. He remains an active member of the New Jersey State Association of Police Chiefs and the Middlesex County Association of Chiefs of Police.

As an inspiration to police officers in his department and the state of New Jersey, Chief Klienkauf has contributed significantly to the life of his community. He has earned our heartfelt appreciation for his efforts.

RECOGNIZING WALTER J. STYER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Walter J. Styer, retiring Supervisor of Upper Uwchlan Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, and commend him for his lifelong service to our community.

When Walter Styer first took office as Supervisor, Upper Uwchlan Township was a rural farming community with only 1,200 residents. Today, after three decades of continuing growth and development, there are now 7,000. As the community has grown, so has the job of supervisor. Mr. Styer's primary responsibility during his time in office has been to make sure that Upper Uwchlan grew responsibly and that the needs and desires of its citizens were continually met. In the beginning, his meetings would take 20 min, and would revolve around paying the bills and reading the road report. In recent years, it has not been uncommon to have multiple meetings in a single week for several hours at a time. His participation in the supervising of a rapidly growing community is a true testament to his commitment and his willingness to adapt to the increasing demands of the position. Over the years, as more and more time was required as supervisor, Walter Styer still found time to run his own businesses, remain active in his church and raise four children. What has kept him going all these years was his desire to see all of his projects and undertakings to a successful conclusion—a testament to his character and drive. His tremendous leadership and experience as been an enormous asset to Upper Uwchlan Township and has allowed it to grow responsibly and successfully for all these years.

Mr. Speaker. I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing and honoring Walter J. Styer for his lifetime of exemplary citizenship and civil works to make Upper Uwchlan Township a better place to live.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUNE VALENTINE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. The Southern Colorado Livestock Association recently named June Valentine Stockman of the Year. June is the first woman to receive this honor in the history of the association, and it is my privilege to call her contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and our nation today.

June has been a rancher in Las Animas County her entire life. As a rancher, June is passionate and knowledgeable. In the ranching industry, June has transcended gender stereotypes and proven herself as able as any rancher in Colorado.

June is also well known for her contributions to the community. She is an avid historian who shares her knowledge of the county's history with her many friends and neighbors. In addition, June is also involved in local government and has held many offices in service of the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to June Valentine before this body of Congress and our nation today. June is an amazing rancher, historian, public servant and friend. Her contributions set a fine example for all Americans. Congratulations, June, on a well deserved award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker I was unavoidably detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the following roll call votes:

Roll Call 620 (S.J. Res. 22), Recognizing the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture for 50 years of outstanding service to the Nation through agricultural research;

Roll Call 621 (S.J. Res. 18), Commending the Inspectors General for their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Federal Government during the past 25 years;

Roll Call 622 (H. Con. Res. 299), Honoring Mr. Sargent Shriver for his dedication and service to the United States of America, for his service in the United States Navy, and for his lifetime of work as an ambassador for the poor and powerless citizens of the United States of America, and for other purposes;

Roll Call 623 Motion—On Hour of Meeting.

HEALTH EMPOWERMENT ZONE

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, on March 20, 2002, the Institute of Medicine

(IOM) released a landmark report entitled: Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care. Among other key findings, the report documented that minorities in the United States receive fewer life-prolonging cardiac medications and surgeries, are less likely to receive dialysis and kidney transplants, and are less likely to receive adequate treatment for pain. Its first and most telling finding States that "racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare exist and, because they are associated with worse outcomes in many cases, are unacceptable." The reasons for these disparities in treatment are wide and varied, and include, but are not limited to: healthcare provider prejudice or bias, the implicit nature of stereotypes, and broader historic and contemporary social and economic inequality. The report included a series of recommendations and interventions for policy changes to eliminate these unacceptable disparities.

Whether it is the recently released IOM report on Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care, the Commonwealth Fund's report Diverse Communities, Common Concerns: Assessing Health Care Quality for Minority Americans or a recent report by Physicians for Human Rights (2003) found that many minority groups receive lower quality evaluation and treatment than white Americans for a wide range of medical conditions, even when each has health insurance.

We are continually reminded that throughout the history of our great Nation, our people have been denied access to the best that medical science has had to offer—often relegated to hospitals with outdated equipment and served by African-American health care providers who, although as capable, intelligent, and gifted as their white counterparts, often could not obtain equivalent training because of racist practices such as segregation.

This segregated health system was largely responsible for the health inequities that existed during the early and middle part of this century. Indeed, in 1951 Dr. W. Montague Cobb, editor of the Journal of the National Medical Association, stated "For nearly fifty years the retarded health status of our Negro population has been common knowledge and the object of sporadic corrective effort". With the Civil Rights came an acknowledgment came greater equality in many aspects of life for African-Americans, including greater access to quality health care.

As an effort to extend such acknowledgment I am proud to introduce the Health Empowerment Zone Act of 2003. This act directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services with the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services administration and the Directors of the Office of Minority Health, of the Office of Community Services and National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities to establish health empowerment zone programs in communities that disproportionately experience disparities in health status and health care, and for other purposes.

To be eligible the communities must demonstrate that they experience disproportionate disparities in health status and health care, set forth a strategic plan and create a partnership, with individuals, businesses, schools, minority health associations, nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, hospitals, health care clinics, and foundations.

The health empowerment zone designation would provide communities the ability to effectively access Federal programs (namely in the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education, the Department of Labor, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Small Business Administration) to improve the health or environment of minority individuals in the community and to coordinate the efforts regarding the elimination of racial and ethnic disparities in health status and health care. Special consideration is given to community that have demonstrated expertise in providing culturally appropriate and linguistically responsive services.

The bill directs communities to establish a health empowerment zone coordinating committee that will provide technical assistance and evidence-based strategies to the zone, including providing guidance on research, strategies, health outcomes, program goals, management, implementation, monitoring, assessment, and evaluation processes.

This bill recognizes that disparities in health and health care found among minority Americans have multiple causes. Lower socioeconomic status and a higher rate of uninsurance are major contributors to the health disparities experienced by minority Americans but non-health factors also play an important role.

The bill codifies legislatively the framework needed to implement sound public health practices such as:

Primary health promotion and disease prevention: Identifying and strengthening protective ecological conditions conducive to health; and identifying and reducing various health risks.

Secondary health promotion and disease prevention: Identifying, adopting, and reinforcing specific protective behaviors; and early detection and reduction of existing health problems.

Tertiary health promotion and disease prevention: Improving the quality of life of community members affected by health problems; and avoiding deterioration, reducing complications from specific disorders, and preventing relapse of risky behaviors.

This bill is a start to a new paradigm for health and I urge my colleagues to support this bill, so that we do what is so clearly needed to improve the health and health care for millions of minority Americans.

YOUTH ATTITUDES ABOUT CIVIC EDUCATION

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, at the First Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education held recently in Washington, D.C., a new report was released that deserves our highest attention and concern. The report, "Citizenship: A Challenge for All Generations," showed that young people are disengaged from the political process and lack the knowledge necessary to be effective citizens. According to the public opinion survey described in the report, more young Americans know the name of the reigning American Idol than know the political party of their state's governor.

The survey did provide a source of good news, however. It reported that courses in civics and government make a significant difference in sparking young people's interest in government and increasing their understanding of the American system of government.

Both the landmark Congressional Conference on Civic Education and this new national survey of youth civic attitudes, knowledge, and participation were products of the Representative Democracy in America Project, a new congressional initiative designed to reinvigorate Americans and educate them about the critical relationship between government and the people it serves. This national project is a collaboration among the National Conference of State Legislatures' Trust for Representative Democracy, the Center on Congress at Indiana University and the Center for Civic Education. The project, which is strictly nonpartisan, is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress. I would like to submit for the record the executive summary of the report "Citizenship: A Challenge for All Generations."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This public opinion survey shows that young people do not understand the ideals of citizenship, they are disengaged from the political process, they lack the knowledge necessary for effective self-government, and their appreciation and support of American democracy is limited. The older generations have failed to teach the ideals of citizenship to the next generation. But there is hope. The report provides new evidence that civic education makes a big difference in the attitudes toward citizenship, knowledge and civic engagement of young people.

The report is based on a national public opinion survey designed to tap how the civic attitudes, knowledge and participation of young people—the DotNet generation between 15 and 26 years of age—compare to those of older generations. The poll was conducted by Knowledge Networks, a research firm that conducts scientifically based Internet surveys. The sampling error for the two age groups—15 to 26 and over 26—is approximately ±4 percentage points each.

The survey results reveal a breakdown in how older generations pass on the values of democracy to younger Americans, especially in the area of what it means to be a good citizen.

Here are some key findings regarding the qualities of good citizens:

Seventy-eight percent of those in the older generations say we need to pay attention to government and politics compared with 54 percent of the younger generation.

Less than half of the DotNets think that communicating with elected officials or volunteering or donating money to help others are qualities of a good citizen.

Only 66 percent of the DotNets say that voting is a necessary quality for being a good citizen, compared with 83 percent of those over age 26.

Among the DotNet generation, 64 percent report that they have taken a high school course on civics or American government. Those who have done so are much more likely to believe they are personally responsible for making things better for society and have a more expansive concept of the qualities of a good citizen. On the importance of voting, for example, there is a 24 point spread between those who have taken a government class and those who haven't.

In the area of civic engagement—the act of governing ourselves:

Only half of the DotNets reported that they voted in the most recent elections or

that they follow politics, compared to three-quarters of those over age 26.

In many areas of civic participation, two or three times more DotNets who have taken a civics class report that they have engaged in civic activities than those who have not.

On civic knowledge—the tool that enables us to govern ourselves:

Three-quarters of the older generations correctly identified the party of their state's governor and three out of five knew the Republicans control Congress. But only one-third could correctly identify the party in control of their state's legislature.

Among DotNets, eight out of 10 know that the cartoon Simpsons live in Springfield, and the great majority know that Ruben Studdard is the reigning American Idol. But less than half know the party of their state's governor, and only 40 percent can say which party controls Congress.

On attitudes toward representative democracy—our appreciation and understanding of the complexities of the legislative process:

The majority of Americans grasp the fact that people disagree on the issues and the system has to work to resolve such disagreements.

The public is cynical about the people and processes of government. They are about equally divided on whether legislators care what people in their districts think or don't care about the opinions of ordinary people. Two in five believe that those elected to public office are out to serve their own personal interests, while only one in three thinks they are trying to serve the public interest. A majority believes that the system is run by a few big interests rather than for the benefit of all.

Americans believe the country would be better off if the people decided issues directly by voting on them. Support for representative democracy is limited.

The gap between the civic attitudes, knowledge and participation of the new generation of DotNets and the older ones is substantially greater than the gaps between previous generations. It suggests that the DotNets will never be as engaged in democracy as their elders, even as they age.

Civic education makes a big difference in the attitudes, knowledge and engagement of young people. Thirty-nine states have civics or government class requirements for high school graduation. All states will want to review their civic education requirements, standards, assessments, teacher training and course content to determine if they are delivering effective civic education that produces informed citizens.

COMBATING THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to share with this body the extraordinary work being done by a constituent company of mine, BD, the Becton, Dickinson and Company of Franklin Lakes, NJ in combating the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa.

First, I would like to applaud the Senate's efforts in passing the McConnell-Sessions-Leahy amendment, as part of the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2004 that will provide funding to combat unsafe medical practices in Africa as a means to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS on that continent.

This bipartisan effort directs the Bush administration to spend at least \$75 million on injection and blood safety programs in 12 African countries as part of the President's overall \$15 billion HIV/AIDS initiative. This funding is an important first step in addressing the issue of disease spread through unsafe medical practices in Africa, and I urge my colleagues who will be participating in the conference committee to preserve this important amendment.

Which brings me to the work of BD. In business for over a century, BD, is a global medical technology company that serves healthcare institutions, life science researchers, clinical laboratories, industry and the general public. BD manufactures and sells a broad range of medical supplies, devices, laboratory equipment and diagnostic products and employs over 25,000 people in 18 states and around the world.

BD has a long, distinguished history not only in the development of medical technologies but also in partnering with global and domestic health entities and governments to tackle some of the major public health issues of our time. An example: BD pioneered the development of sterilization technology for medical devices and provided the first mass-produced sterile disposable syringes—at cost—to Dr. Jonas Salk for his nationwide polio vaccination efforts in 1954.

BD is currently working with the WHO, UNICEF, the International Red Cross and other organizations to provide low-cost "auto-disable" needles and syringes that are specifically designed to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases by preventing reuse in the developing world.

BD has devoted years of dedicated effort and innovation to this issue, even though BD does not manufacture the vast majority of injection devices utilized in the developing world. Still, the company's commitment to this issue has manifested in many ways, including development of low-cost technologies specifically designed to address this developing world need, collaboration with international agencies in development of appropriate safe injection policies for mass immunization programs, and substantial philanthropic commitments in support of international vaccination efforts utilizing safe injection technology for deadly diseases such as maternal and neonatal tetanus and measles.

These commitments and investments occurred because BD believes their expertise and resources can have a very positive impact on these significant global health issues. In fact, their commitment to the global health arena is part of the company's overall mission: "Helping all people live healthy lives."

As a result of BD's efforts and the leadership of international agencies, U.S. government agencies and the work of some other medical equipment manufacturers of auto-disable syringes that prevent reuse are already in broad use for childhood immunization programs in Africa and some other developing countries.

Efforts were first focused on childhood immunization because these injections are generally administered simultaneously to large groups of children, increasing the potential for disease spread. And to date there has been significant progress. It is estimated that 75 percent of immunizations in Africa are administered safely with auto-disable devices. How-

ever, immunizations represent only approximately 10 percent of all injections given in Africa. The need exists to expand reuse prevention technologies to the larger number of injections given for therapeutic purposes.

To accomplish this, BD and other manufacturers are expanding the application of low-cost reuse prevention technologies to a broad array of injection devices. These devices are designed to physically disable after a single use, preventing spread of disease from reuse. And while effective technology is critical for success, it is not enough.

To get these devices into broad use, government and non-government agencies, international aid organizations, health ministries in developing countries, and manufacturers must collaborate to ensure that these reuse prevention devices are made broadly available in developing countries. Also, healthcare providers will need to be educated about the risks of injection device reuse, and trained on the proper use of reuse prevention technologies. This will require a larger investment compared with the successful effort to ensure safe immunization of children in Africa.

Injections administered in Africa and the developing world are often unsterile and may transmit infectious disease, due to either improper reuse of disposable syringes and needles designed for single use or to ineffective resterilization of reusable glass syringes. World Health Organization (WHO) and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates indicate that approximately 40% of injections in the developing world are administered with reused, unsterile medical devices. In the year 2000 alone, WHO estimates that 500,000 new HIV/AIDS infections, 2 million new hepatitis C infections, and 21 million new hepatitis B infections resulted from improper reuse of injection devices.

The global HIV/AIDS disease burden is staggering, growing exponentially, and can no longer be ignored. Last year alone, 3.5 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa were infected with the disease. Since 1981, an estimated 20 million people worldwide have died from the disease—and another 42 million around the globe may already be infected.

The passage of the McConnell-Sessions-Leahy amendment and its preservation by the conference committee will give a tremendous boost to global efforts to further prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa and the rest of the developing world due to this unsafe medical practice. But make no mistake about it; the McConnell-Sessions-Leahy amendment is only a first step in a long journey toward resolving this issue. We need to remain steadfast in our support to improve Privileged and Confidential-DRAFT ReRelease] 113103 medical conditions in Africa, and committed to working with all of the necessary parties to ensure the outcome that we know is possible.

I am proud of BD's involvement and commitment to this issue, and I commend them for their efforts and leadership. To me it is a glowing example of what a good global corporate citizen can and should be.

HONORING THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR RESTORATION TO FEDERAL RECOGNITION

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 20th anniversary this November 22 of the restoration to federal recognition of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.

Twenty years ago, on November 22, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Grand Ronde Restoration Act, Public Law 98-165, bringing to fruition a long and determined effort by the elders and leaders of the Grand Ronde Tribes to reverse their thirty years of termination.

The vision and perseverance that marked the Grand Ronde's triumph over that very difficult termination period has continued to guide them since restoration.

Since restoration, the Tribe has grown strong and prospered. The sense of Tribal community, severely tested but not broken during termination, has flourished among a membership that, while looking to the future, actively embraces its culture, traditions, and long history. The Tribe's home lands, once reduced to their cemetery, are now thriving with housing for elders and other Tribal members, a Tribal community center, a beautiful and modern health clinic, and new governmental offices. In the near-by hills, the Tribe sustainably manages its 9,800 acre forested reservation, secured with further legislation in 1988.

In the two decades since restoration, the Grand Ronde Tribal government has pursued its full measure of responsibility, representing and providing for the Tribal membership, and directly administering the full range of federal services. A key element is the Tribal government's efforts to provide for the economic security of its members and its own self-reliance. In twenty years, the Tribe has become a primary economic engine in the area, moving from its timber base into a gaming and hotel facility and today into more broadly diversified endeavors that keep an eye toward the future.

And throughout all of this, the Grand Ronde Tribe has sought to work cooperatively with its neighbors. This is a hallmark of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Despite the understandable temptations to walk their own path, they have consistently reached out to their neighbors, seeking to foster understanding and cooperation. There is no better example of this in the Spirit Mountain Community Fund. This fund has given over 22 million dollars to community organizations since its creation in 1997.

For the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, it has been a remarkable twenty years of progress and fulfillment. As for all the restored tribes of Oregon, restoration is a defining moment in their long history, and on the November 22, 2003 twentieth anniversary of the restoration of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, I wish to commemorate and salute their achievement.

HONORING LARRY A. MATOS

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an ambitious and hard-working businessman, Mr. Larry A. Matos. Larry was born and raised in California's Central Valley, and was working hard on his parent's dairy at a young age. While growing up, Larry attended Turlock High School, and led his Future Farmers of America team to a 6th place finish at a national dairy competition. After graduating Turlock High School in 1992, he quickly received his Real Estate license at the age of 18.

In 1994, Larry was approached by Mr. John Melo to purchase a Century 21 Real Estate office. Always ready for a new challenge, Larry and Mr. Melo formed a business partnership, and turned a three-man office into eleven office locations in four counties, four businesses, and over three hundred employees and realtors. Currently, Larry is the President/Broker of Century 21 M&M and Associates. Not only is Larry dedicated to his business ventures, but to the Real Estate industry as well. He has served as a local Board of Director for the Central Valley Association of Realtors. This past year, Larry had the distinct opportunity to serve his fellow colleagues as President of the Central Valley Association of Realtors. He was one of the youngest to ever hold that position.

If not working hard with his business investments, Larry can be found spending time on his family's dairy, and being with his friends and relatives. He also dedicates his time to the community by serving on the Holiday Can Tree, and sponsoring a number of charitable events throughout the year. Mr. Speaker, Larry is a role model for our youth in the Central Valley. His positive attitude and work ethic have helped him achieve the American Dream. It is my honor to recognize him for his achievements, and to call him my friend.

LIFE OF MAJ. GEN. GEORGE RUHLEN

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Maj. Gen. George Ruhlen. Maj. Gen. Ruhlen loved this country and lived a life of service protecting the freedoms we hold dear. Maj. Gen. Ruhlen was a graduate of the United States Military Academy and completed regular courses at the Field Artillery School, the Army War College and the National War College. He was a great patriot and served this country well, commanding the Third Armored Field Artillery Battalion, 9th Armored Division during World War II. His battalion participated in the defense of Luxembourg, Bastogne, and the capture of the Ludendorff Bridge over the Rhine River at Remagen. Maj. Gen. Ruhlen's actions in the capture of the Ludendorff Bridge were of extreme significance, helping to hasten the end of the war in Europe. This historic capture allowed over 25,000 American soldiers, tanks, artillery and

trucks to cross the bridge safely. In addition, Maj. Gen. Ruhlen served with honor in overseas postings in Japan, Taiwan and Pakistan. He went on to serve as Commander of the 1st Armored Division, Deputy Commanding General, Fourth U.S. Army and Commanding General, Fort Sam Houston. Maj. Gen. Ruhlen received the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action during the Battle of the Bulge. He was also the recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit and the Belgian, French and Luxembourg Croix de Guerre. His leadership and valor were an inspiration to those who knew him. He was truly a great American.

VETERAN TRIBUTE FOR
SERGEANT PIERSON**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of Sergeant Tom Pierson.

Sergeant Pierson served our country during the Vietnam War in the United States Marine Corps. He received the Vietnam Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. Sergeant Pierson is also a recipient of the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

At a time when we are once again at war, it is necessary to recognize the achievements of these national heroes. Due to their dedication, service, and sacrifice, they deserve our unwavering admiration and our unending gratitude.

Our country often takes for granted the freedoms and liberties our service men and women risk their lives to protect; yet by continuing to honor our veterans we preserve our nation's future by commemorating their past.

Thank you, Sergeant Pierson, for your service and sacrifice. You are a true hero.

RECOGNIZING THE OWEN J. ROBERTS
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER TEAM**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Owen J. Roberts High School Girls Soccer Team on their victory in the 2003 Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Class AAA State Championship game on November 15, 2003.

The Owen J. Roberts Wildcats set a school record for victories in a season on their way to capturing the school's first state championship. In the seven year history of the program, all under the guidance of Coach Joe Margusity, the Wildcats have compiled an amazing 138-31-6 record. The team allowed only 11 goals in 28 games this season, which was enough to earn them gold medals by shutting out Butler High School, 1-0, in the championship game at Hersheypark Stadium.

Led by Head Coach Joe Margusity, and assistant coaches Josh Hoyt, Joe Baccille, and

Chris Strango; the members of this championship team include Laura Ginnona, Becky Lesh, Brittany Bench, Julia Cupp, Jen Michener, Jess Carbo, Anna Bevan, Brooke Dotterer, Kristen Kaufman, Kim Roncase, Beth Stephens, Heather Manorak, Kristi Moltz, Kate Moltz, Ashley Nespor, Amber Cumins, Gayle Exley, Amber Hawkins, Rachel Michener, Jillian Morgan, Kristine Preski and Megan Levengood.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Owen J. Roberts High School Girls Soccer Team, the 2003 PIAA Class AAA State Champions.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ST. MICHAEL'S
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Saint Michael's Orthodox Christian Church located in Pueblo, Colorado. St. Michael's recently celebrated its 100th anniversary and it is my honor to rise and recognize the contributions that this church has made to the Pueblo community.

St. Michael's was founded by a number of Pueblo's ethnic Greek families in the early 1900s. Over time, the church has been a wonderful place of worship for many Puebloans. The creation of a place of worship speaks to the very essence of what our country was founded on. As we celebrate St. Michael's 100 years of existence, it is important to call attention to the fact that the American Values which led to the church's existence continue to this day.

The 100th anniversary of St. Michael's falls at a time of great renewal and triumph for the church. Over the last five years, the church has been undergoing significant renovation under the guidance of its devoted pastor, The Reverend Chris Stanton. The small church is truly a beautiful place of worship.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to call the attention of this body of Congress and our nation to the St. Michael's Orthodox Christian Church. Over the last 100 years, the church has provided a great deal to its parishioners and the community of Pueblo, and it is my honor to call attention to its service here today.

SAFE HOMES: CHILD
IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM**HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, a child abduction is every parent's worst nightmare. Yet all too often, we hear chilling stories of boys and girls taken from their rightful guardians; stolen by strangers or even by members of their family. Today, I want to recognize a program in my district that is working to prevent these awful occurrences.

In Weirton, volunteers have organized an initiative that is called WINK: Watching Its

Neighborhood Kids. This two-part program is bringing the community together to help keep children safe—and to help recover them if they should ever be lost or taken.

Under the WINK Program, safe houses are being established across the city. These are homes and businesses, screened by the Weirton police, that volunteer to open their doors to children who are lost, hurt or threatened. The goal is to eventually have one on every block.

The approved safe houses are given a logo sign to post in their windows. They also are given information on helping children in danger. Children are told about the program in school, and parents are encouraged to show them where safe houses can be found in the neighborhood.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of vigilance and communication is a good way to protect our children. But sometimes, no matter how careful the precautions, young people are lost or missing. That is why the second part of this program is vitally important as well.

In addition to the safe houses, WINK has established a child identification program. It sponsors free registration events across the community. Parents bring in their children for digital photos, for fingerprints or footprints, and for a DNA mouth swab. All of these items—these key identification tools—are given to parents to take home, and keep close at hand.

Experts tell us that when a child is missing, an immediate response is the best response. It helps to increase the odds of a successful recovery. Thanks to the child I.D. program, parents have up-to-date information ready to give to police should the unthinkable happen.

Mr. Speaker, the safety of children is a concern that we all share. Today, I am pleased to salute a special group of people who truly take this concern to heart, and have channeled it into real community action. I ask the House to join me in recognizing the caring volunteers who are behind Weirton's watching its neighborhood kids.

A BILL TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE MAGNUSON-STEVENSON FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT AND TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE BERING SEA CRAB RATIONALIZATION PROGRAM

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to make a number of changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. I believe there are three areas of the current Act that need to be changed. While the language I am proposing may not be the best way to address these concerns, I would like these proposed changes to spark a debate in the coming months.

In addition, I am including language to amend the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab rationalization program to address what I believe was an oversight in the plan. I believe this plan to rationalize the Bering Sea crab fishery is a living plan which will continue to be modified as changes are needed. I believe

that the safety issues of this fishery necessitate some action, and I don't believe that no action is an option. Congress asked the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to give the Congress a proposal and they did so. We have studied this fishery for too long without doing something to make it safer. Having said that, I also believe that the plan to rationalize this important fishery needs to be dynamic and we need to be able to make adjustments as we see how the plan works. Everyone involved in this debate has good intentions, but we need to be mindful that good intentions sometimes cause unintended consequences. We need to watch the implementation of the plan very carefully.

Finally, I am asking the Secretary of State to determine whether the retired U.S. staff of two international fisheries commissions who worked in Canada were unduly harmed by exchange rates and to what extent their retirement packages have suffered as a result of the exchange rate.

THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, partisan divisions are common in the Congress, but a few issues regularly escape those boundaries. International trade typically is one of them. Although the votes that gave President Bush Trade Promotion Authority confirm that even international trade can be an intensely polarizing issue, it frequently garners support across the political spectrum.

I first traveled to Africa in 1961 with Operation Crossroads to build a school in Ghana. Africa in the '60s underwent a vibrant surge of optimism as independence from colonial rule spread throughout the continent. My experience in Ghana changed my view of the world, and many Members of Congress have had experiences similar to mine. Many Members also believe, as I do, that when the United States opens its markets to poor countries, we extend an enormous opportunity to create jobs and raise living standards, and also provide greater value to American consumers. The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), signed into law by President Clinton in 2000, underscores the common goals that Republicans and Democrats can share.

By any measure, AGOA is a resounding success. It is spurring economic growth and bolstering economic reforms. It is fostering stronger ties between sub-Saharan Africa and the United States, and it is reaffirming Africans' conviction that they can compete in any market.

AGOA, which provides temporary benefits, requires periodic review by the Congress to assess its effectiveness. It was designed this way in part because policy makers, like myself, did not know the precise recipe to attract the type of investment in sub-Saharan Africa we were seeking. We made a few good guesses in this regard, but we probably missed the mark in other areas.

We guessed right when we decided that we should provide sub-Saharan Africa greater access to the U.S. textile and apparel market.

Over the last three years, tens of thousands of jobs were created in this industry, thanks to AGOA benefits. Expiring next year, however, is the provision in AGOA that allows Africa's poorest countries to buy fabric outside the region—where it is inexpensive and high in quality—to create finished apparel products for export to the U.S.

Today, I join several of my colleagues, like Representatives ED ROYCE, AMO HOUGHTON and CHARLES RANGEL, to introduce legislation to extend AGOA and spread its benefits to other sectors of sub-Saharan Africa's economy. The AGOA III Act, H.R. 3572, marks the beginning of another bi-partisan effort to develop a plan to improve U.S.-Africa trade.

When my colleagues and I set out to write this bill, we saw the need to address four key issues. First, the third-country fabric provision available to Africa's poorest countries through AGOA expires at the end of next year, at the very same time as worldwide quotas on apparel disappear due to the WTO's Multi Fiber agreement. Third-country fabric must be extended to allow sub-Saharan Africa to participate in a market dominated by the Asian giants. There will be robust debate about how long Congress should extend this provision. We suggest in the AGOA III Act that these benefits should last as long as four years.

Second, the United States needs to provide technical assistance to African farmers to enable them to export their products to America. To do this, the AGOA III Act places dozens of American agricultural experts throughout sub-Saharan Africa to work with farmers and their governments.

Third, the biggest barrier to investment in sub-Saharan Africa is the lack of infrastructure. But building roads, ports, energy grids, telecommunication and water systems solely to increase trade flows is simply not feasible. It is the "chicken or the egg" dilemma. We cannot increase trade flows without adequate infrastructure, yet why build infrastructure if trade capacity is not at a level that requires it? We must find ways to develop and maintain new infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa as trade capacity improves. One way we can do this is by fostering sustainable ecotourism in sub-Saharan Africa. This industry is expected to grow 30 percent over the next decade. We can help sub-Saharan Africa position itself to take advantage of this because the region enjoys an international comparative advantage with its extensive protected areas that host a variety of ecosystems and cultures. National parks and reserves in sub-Saharan Africa can become a basis for regional development, involving the communities living within and adjacent to them. The infrastructure used to support an ecotourism industry can also be used to increase trade flow. There are several initiatives in the AGOA III Act that seek to help sub-Saharan Africa develop its infrastructure, in part by helping build a viable ecotourism industry.

Fourth, we must address AIDS, which is not just a health crisis. AIDS is an economic catastrophe. In the 1990s, AIDS reduced Africa's per capita annual growth by nearly 1 percent. In the most heavily affected countries, 2 percentage points will be sliced off per capita growth in coming years. This means that after two decades, many economies in sub-Saharan Africa will be about 20–40 percent smaller than they would have been without AIDS. That is an enormous decline that no trade policy

can overcome. In addition to fully funding international programs to combat the virus, we can provide tax incentives through AGOA to leverage private-sector contributions to the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The AGOA III Act would provide a tax deduction to U.S. firms operating in AGOA-eligible countries when they make a cash donation to the Global Fund.

As I speak with African entrepreneurs, civil society, and the African diplomatic corps, the enthusiasm about AGOA and sub-Saharan Africa's economic possibilities remind me of the excitement of 1960s. But unless all of us work together as we did before—Democrats, Republicans, civil society, and the governments of sub-Saharan Africa—to build a consensus about extending and enhancing AGOA, I fear that this enthusiasm will go the way of our '60s optimism, as genocide, apartheid, civil war, and famine swept over Africa. We have a rare opportunity to ensure that Africa continues to share our markets. We must not let this moment pass us by. I hope that when the Congress convenes next year, addressing U.S.-African trade will be at the top of Congress's agenda.

TRIBUTE TO ROBINSON HIGH
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL KEVIN
MC CARTHY

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Robinson High School Principal Kevin McCarthy, who tragically passed away this week at the age of 39. Kevin's dedication to excellence and passion for serving his students, faculty and Robinson High School family will be sorely missed.

After earning two masters degrees and a doctorate, Kevin chose to become a science teacher in 1989. In 1997, he came to Tampa to serve as the science department head at Blake High School.

Kevin's ambition, enthusiasm and record of success served him well in the Hillsborough County School District. He progressed from department head to assistant principal for student affairs at Wharton High School and assistant principal for curriculum at King High School before he became principal at Robinson.

Along the way, he touched the lives of countless students, faculty and parents and left his mark on the schools in which he served. At Robinson, with his love of science, he helped create the MacDill Aeronautical Academy, which gives students the chance to engage in hands-on aerospace training and offers internship opportunities at MacDill Air Force Base.

When gunshots at Rembrandt Garden apartments, adjacent to Robinson's campus, threatened the safety of students, Kevin spearheaded community meetings including local law enforcement and Tampa housing officials to address the problem. Just three months later, a plan was in place to tear down Rembrandt apartments to make way for a new, safer complex.

The Robinson family, however, will most likely remember Kevin's leadership in helping

the campus come to grips with the death of Lance Cpl. Andrew Aviles, a Robinson High School graduate who was killed in Iraq.

Kevin McCarthy was what every school district in America needs—a rising star who sets high expectations for students and faculty and has the talent to help them to meet those goals. All of us who got to know him and work with him were and continue to be inspired by his integrity, energy and intense focus on his students. Kevin was one-of-a-kind and will undoubtedly influence countless others to follow his example in serving the community in many ways.

On behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

IN MEMORY OF PFC. JONATHAN
CHEATHAM

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Pfc. Jonathan Cheatham, of Camden, AR, who died on July 26, 2003, fighting for his country in Iraq. I am saddened by this tragedy. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

Jonathan attended Camden Fairview High School where he played soccer and the trumpet in the band. Upon graduation in 2002, Jonathan immediately entered the military. Jonathan served in the 489th Engineer Battalion of U.S. Army Reserve.

Jonathan gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a hero, a terrific son, and a courageous brother. My deepest condolences go out to his mother, Barbara Porchia, his sister, Portia Cheatham, family, friends, and those in his hometown of Camden whose lives he touched. I am sure Jonathan was proud of his service to the U. S. Army and to our country. I know he will be missed by his fellow soldiers, and all those who knew him and counted him as a friend. Furthermore, his fellow soldiers also know how much he contributed to the accomplishment of his unit's mission and to the U.S. Army. I will continue to keep Jonathan and his family in my thoughts and prayers.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF VIRGINIA DEMMLER

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of an outstanding Nevadan who dedicated her life to the highest ideals of civic life. Virginia Demmler, served the causes of justice and equality throughout her more than 20 years as a resident of Nevada, providing boundless energy, tireless work and inspiring leadership for Washoe County's Democratic Party and other civic organizations.

At the recent memorial service that celebrated Virginia's life, former United States Senator Richard Bryan described her as "the essence of a citizen activist, totally selfless

and committed." Virginia was recognized at "the heart of the Democratic Party of Washoe County," by Mary Connelly, State Director for United States Senator HARRY REID.

Virginia Demmler's service as Chairman of the County Party as its Executive Director set the standard for principled, effective activism. Washoe County's Democrats have appropriately marked their respect for Virginia's legacy by naming their annual Honor Roll Dinner the Virginia Demmler Honor Roll Dinner, where hundreds of her fellow citizens will attend in tribute to her.

As a young woman I became involved in politics and public service in Las Vegas, hundreds of miles from Reno. But Virginia reached out to me to provide guidance and vision that helped chart my course to achieve elected office and to serve all Nevadans with the passion and principle epitomized. I hope my service measures up to her example.

Virginia never shied away from helping a good cause. From Common Cause, to Planned Parenthood, to the American Civil Liberties Union, she served with distinction and was always there for people in need, to right a wrong, and to help build a better state.

Nevada is a better place, and her citizens enriched, because of the life of Virginia Demmler.

VETERAN TRIBUTE FOR STAFF
SERGEANT JOSEPH PENA

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of Staff Sergeant Joseph Pena.

Staff Sergeant Pena served our country during the Korean War in the United States Air Force. He received the Korean Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. Staff Sergeant Pena is also a recipient of the Republic of Korea War Service Medal and the United Nations Service Medal.

At a time when we are once again at war, it is necessary to recognize the achievements of these national heroes. Due to their dedication, service, and sacrifice, they deserve our unwavering admiration and our unending gratitude.

Our country often takes for granted the freedoms and liberties our service men and women risk their lives to protect; yet by continuing to honor our veterans we preserve our nation's future by commemorating their past.

Thank you, Staff Sergeant Pena, for your service and sacrifice. You are a true hero.

TRIBUTE TO ZOELSMANN'S
BAKERY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable business in my district. Zoelsmann's Bakery has been serving the community of Pueblo, Colorado for

105 years, and I am pleased to call the attention of this body of Congress to the many contributions the bakery has made to the Pueblo community.

Otto Zoelsmann and his wife immigrated to the United States from Germany in the late 1800's. In 1898, the couple moved to Pueblo, where they opened a bakery. The Zoelsmann's were expert bakers and their delicacies were immediately popular throughout the Pueblo community. Horse drawn wagons, and later Ford Model T trucks, initially delivered the baked goods to Zoelsmann's loyal customers.

Aside from technological advancements, little about Zoelsmann's Bakery has changed over the years. The bakery is still dedicated to creating and selling the best baked goods possible. The current co-owners, the Petkoseks and the Paradisos, along with their staff, always serve their customers with a kind word and a friendly smile.

The Petkoseks and Paradisos took over the store after its longtime owner Chuck Martinelli retired. Chuck was a beloved figure in Pueblo and a master chef. Chuck handpicked his successors and, before retiring, he taught them his trade and entrusted them with his famous recipes. Chuck's memory lives on with Zoelsmann's Bakery as it goes about its business each day.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Zoelsmann's Bakery. The bakery is entering its second century of dedicated service to the people of Colorado and I am pleased to call attention to Zoelsmann's contributions to the community of Pueblo.

H.R. 1813, THE TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1813, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2003.

Torture is a horrible tool used in more than 150 countries to silence, intimidate and oppress people around the world. Many survivors of torture arrive in the United States every year. This legislation provides vital funding of support for victims of torture.

Mr. Speaker, more than 500,000 survivors of torture live in the United States today. A significant number of these survivors live in New York City. These survivors need vital support in terms of rehabilitation, medical care and psychological care. Fleeing from their persecutors, most often leaving their families behind, they arrive with no documentary evidence to prove their persecution. All they have are their scarred bodies and their stories of horror.

Once they arrive, the survivors are forced to face a culture and a system different from what they have known. They face numerous challenges in their effort to integrate into our society and become fully participating members. They have difficulty telling their stories to the immigration officers and even to their own attorneys because of the abuse they have endured by those in power in the past and thus are wary of authorities. Among the few they

can turn to are the torture treatment programs. These programs, armed with experience and dedication, are instrumental in helping survivors document their stories of torture, providing them with clinical care and psychosocial support, and enabling them to embark on a new life.

The life-saving work done by these torture treatment programs should be commended and appreciated by all Americans, for they open their doors, extend their hands, and offer shoulders to the most severely wounded new Americans. It is my pleasure today to commend the indispensable work of the Safe Horizon/Solace Program for Survivors of Torture and Refugee Trauma in my district. Solace is a program of Safe Horizon, which is the nation's leading victim assistance and advocacy organization. Solace is a decentralized, city-wide program, with its main offices in Jackson Heights, Queens. Since 1997, Solace has provided an array of services on behalf of torture survivors from over 70 different countries, including intensive case management, clinical, referral for medical and legal, social adjustment counseling, accompaniment, interpretation, information and referral, medical and psychological evaluations, expressive therapies such as visual and dramatic arts, dance, and somatic therapies such as massage, for survivors of torture seeking safe haven in the United States.

Furthermore, Solace has pioneered a community development approach that involves creating social healing interventions at the familial and communal levels, particularly important since torture seeks to destroy the fabric of communities, as much as it seeks to destroy individuals.

The Safe Horizon/Solace approach is also extremely cost effective, since Solace is the managing partner of the Metro Area Support for Survivors of Torture (MASST) Consortium, which includes Doctors of the World/USA, Refuge, Inc., and the International Institute of New Jersey as partners. This New York City and Northern New Jersey effort is all done on one grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement, and is the only such configuration in the United States. This past year, the MASST Consortium has reached thousands of people with a dizzying array of services.

The funds provided by the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2003 will enable torture treatment programs like Safe Horizon/Solace and its MASST partners to continue to provide the crucial services needed by those who have been subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment in their own countries.

Mr. Speaker, we may not have the opportunity to know when we meet the survivors of torture, to listen to first hand and understand their stories, or to appreciate the courage they exhibit in overcoming the consequences of the traumatic events they have experienced. But we do have the opportunity to assist them today. By supporting this important legislation, we can play an important part in providing care for this resilient group of people. We can give them hope for a better future. We will be instrumental in helping them break down the barriers that keep them from fully integrating into our society.

I strongly encourage all my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit this statement for the record and regret that I was unavoidably detained on my way to the floor on November 21, 2003 to vote on rollcall vote Number 636, on H.R. 3491, the National Museum of African American History and Culture Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

A BILL TO IMPROVE THE LIQUIDITY OF THE MARKET FOR INVESTMENTS IN LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT PROPERTIES

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today Representatives NANCY JOHNSON (R-CT), CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY) and RICHARD NEAL (D-MA) are joining me in introducing legislation to correct a problem that is impairing the liquidity of the market for investments in Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (housing credit) properties. The housing credit has been a remarkably successful incentive for encouraging investment in residential rental housing for low-income families. Under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, a tax credit is available for investment in affordable housing. The credit is claimed annually over a period of ten years. Qualified residential rental projects must be rented to lower-income households at controlled rents and satisfy a number of other requirements throughout a prescribed compliance period (generally, 15 years from the first taxable year the credit is claimed).

Today, virtually all of the equity for housing credit investments comes from widely held corporations investing through housing credit funds. A significant number of corporate investors have transferred these fund interests in recent years, typically due to a change in their income tax status. An investor wishing to dispose of an interest in a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit ("housing credit") property during its 15-year compliance period is subject to a recapture of housing credits previously claimed unless a bond or U.S. Treasury securities are posted to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The amount of the bond to be posted is based on the amount of housing credits claimed and the duration remaining in the compliance period. The purpose of the bond is to guarantee to the IRS that it can collect the appropriate recapture amount in the event that the property is no longer in compliance with the requirements of the housing credit program.

At the time the housing credit program was enacted in 1986, the drafters of the statute were concerned that owners would claim the benefits of the tax credits and then avoid the continuing compliance requirements by transferring the credits to a straw party with minimal assets that the IRS could go after to collect recapture liability. This was a potential

concern because housing credits are provided on an accelerated basis in the sense that they are claimed over a ten-year period, while the property must remain in compliance with the targeting rules over a minimum 15-year period.

However, the experience with the housing credit over the past 15 years demonstrates that this concern is no longer valid. When the housing credit program was enacted, policy-makers thought in terms of previous affordable housing tax incentives that supported an aggressive tax shelter market dominated by individual investors. As it turns out, virtually all (99% today) investment capital in the housing credit program is from publicly traded corporations that pose none of the risks of noncompliance that motivated enactment of the recapture bond rules. Ironically, sales of individual partnership interests in public partnerships with more than 35 investors are exempt from the recapture rules.

There are also other provisions in Code section 42 that adequately address potential noncompliance. In 1989, Congress added the requirement that all state allocating agencies adopt "extended use agreements" to be recorded as restrictive covenants on housing credit properties, which require the property to remain in compliance. In addition, the state allocating agencies were given oversight responsibilities to ensure continued compliance through site inspections and property audits.

The requirement to purchase recapture bonds forces investors to incur unnecessary costs and has produced a complex administrative burden on the IRS. Since bond filings are done building by building, and since single sales transactions frequently involve hundreds of properties, each with dozens of buildings, bond filings may involve thousands of separate filings. Worse yet, the few remaining surety companies writing this type of business operate in an inefficient market. Recapture surety bonds are priced in a fashion that does not measure the true risk of non-compliance, but rather relies solely on the credit rating of the company requesting the bond. This is a function of the fact that surety underwriters do not understand the housing credit program in general or the risk of noncompliance in particular.

At the same time, the incidence of non-compliance with housing credit program rules is exceedingly rare. Meanwhile in the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist acts and the spate of corporate accounting scandals, the surety market is in turmoil. Recapture bond premiums, even for highly rated public companies, have more than tripled over the past two years. This has imposed dead weight costs on the housing credit program. By making it more difficult to transfer credit investments, the recapture bond rule impairs the liquidity of housing credit investments, reducing credit prices generally, and undermining the overall efficiency of the program.

The IRS recently responded to a series of questions we posed about the recapture bond requirement. According to the IRS, since just 1997, recapture bonds covering approximately \$1.8 billion of tax credits have been posted—but in the 17 years since the requirement was enacted, the Service has never made a claim on a recapture bond. That works out to bond premium payments of about \$150 million, to ensure against an event that has never occurred. These costs are unnecessary and are

imposing a real drag on the market for investments in housing credit properties.

Our bill will solve this problem by repealing the recapture bond requirement effective for disposition of interests in LIHTC properties after the date of enactment. An owner of a building (or interest therein) (generally, a limited partnership) that has been the subject of a disposition and is still within the remaining 15-year compliance period with respect to such building would be required to submit a report to its former investors when a recapture event with respect to such building occurs. A copy of recapture event forms sent to investors would be required to be filed with the IRS in order to provide the Service with the information necessary to ensure that all recapture liabilities are timely paid. The general statute of limitations applicable to taxpayers would be modified so that investors who dispose of a building after the effective date of the legislation would remain liable for any potential recapture liability for a period extending through the compliance period for such building to provide the IRS with additional time to audit the partnership's return to ensure the building's continuing compliance with the credit's requirements. Taxpayers who disposed of a building (or interest therein) prior to the date of enactment would not be required to maintain existing recapture bonds (or other alternative security), but cancellation of existing bonds would trigger an extension of the statute of limitations provided for in the legislation.

We encourage you to join us in cosponsoring this important legislation.

A FINE SENSE OF IRONY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov demonstrated a fine sense of irony recently when he criticized the United States for an "excessive tendency to use force" in resolving international issues.

Let me state clearly that I do not believe my country should reach for its huge arsenal of weapons and troops every time we are faced with a difficult situation abroad. To everything there is a season.

Nevertheless, it is ironic that the Russian Government should accuse the United States of taking military action when back home in Chechnya the Russian Government has demonstrated not only an excessive tendency to use force, but also a tendency to use excessive force.

This is not meant to ignore or justify the human rights abuses of the Chechen separatist movement. The Russian Government is entitled to defend its territorial integrity and defend its citizens against civil disorder. But the fact remains that with its "anti-terrorist operation," Moscow has unleashed a massive and brutal military campaign that frequently makes no distinction between combatants and non-combatants. As Newsweek's distinguished commentator Fareed Zakaria wrote in August of this year, "Over the past ten years, Russia's military has had a scorched-earth policy toward Chechnya. The targets are not simply Chechen rebels but, through indiscriminate

warfare, ordinary Chechens . . . Over time, the Chechen rebellion has become more desperate, more extreme and more Islamist."

Not only are such tactics inhumane and cynical, they lead not to peace in Chechnya, but to a more protracted conflict. In this week's National Interest online, Seva Gunitzky reports on how the tactics of the Russian military has radicalized a population that might otherwise have rejected the armed militants: "For by refusing to distinguish between fighters and civilians, the Russian army fused together the interests of previously disparate groups . . . [and] created a far more dangerous foe."

Besides the widespread civilian casualties and property destruction caused by the indiscriminate use of force by Russian military and security forces, the Chechen conflict has resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of persons. Moreover, the recent presidential elections in Chechnya were so obviously flawed that they could hardly be said to reflect the will of the people.

I welcome an exchange of opinions with other government leaders and parliamentarians regarding U.S. foreign policy. Nevertheless, I hope that Moscow will reexamine its own excessive tendency to use force in Chechnya and make every effort to reach a legitimate political settlement there.

HONORING PORTUGUESE EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the continued efforts of the Portuguese Education Foundation of Central California and their numerous contributions to our community. The Foundation works tirelessly to educate the community and to recognize individuals for such efforts.

Tonight, the Foundation is honoring members of the community for their valued contributions and achievements. In addition, the Foundation is recognizing over 30 Foundation Scholarship recipients, lending these individuals strong support in their continuing pursuit of educational goals.

It is my distinct pleasure to pay tribute to the Foundation's 2003 community honorees.

Former Congressman Tony Coelho is being honored as the 2003 Citizen of the Year. Tony, my mentor and good friend, has been an exemplary member of the Portuguese community for many years. He served with distinction as Majority Whip in the United States House of Representatives and continues to think of our San Joaquin Valley as his home.

I am delighted to also recognize the achievements of Maria de Lourdes Silva. Maria has been selected as the 2003 Student of the Year by the Foundation. She is being honored for her outstanding academic achievement and research for the Portuguese Heritage Community of California. I commend her on her dedication to the community.

Finally, it is my honor to recognize Jose Luis da Silva, who has been selected as the 2003 Professor of the Year by the Foundation for his contributions and dedication to sharing

the language and culture of the Portuguese community with the many students of the San Jose High Academy. Mr. da Silva is a tireless advocate and tremendous resource for his students and our community.

The Portuguese Education Foundation of Central California continues to be a strong asset to our community. The Foundation's efforts are immense and I am honored to recognize them and their awardees this evening.

THE POLITICIZATION OF THE JUDICIAL NOMINATION PROCESS

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address a matter of deep concern to every Member of Congress and to every American citizen—the judicial nomination process. I am chairman of the Government Reform Committee's Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, which has responsibility for oversight of, among other things, our federal judicial system. I am deeply concerned by the growing politicization of the judicial nomination process by a handful of left-wing groups and their advocates in Congress.

Last week, the Wall Street Journal reported on a number of memos written by Congressional staff between 2001 and 2003. They illustrate the extreme political prejudice, crass maneuvering, and pandering to special interest groups that are bringing the judicial nomination process to a standstill. One memo actually claims that "most of [President] Bush's nominees are nazis". Another shows that action on nominees was delayed to allow "the groups"—i.e., left-wing special interest groups—"time to complete their research," i.e., to dig up as much dirt as they could on the President's nominees. And shockingly, a third memo shows that action was delayed on a nominee in order to affect the outcome of a case before the Sixth Circuit.

At present, no one can say for sure how the newspaper obtained the memos. Certainly illegal theft of any confidential materials should not be tolerated. I note, however, that given the large number of the memos, the fact that the source blacked out the names of the staff members who wrote and received the memos (presumably to save them from embarrassment), and the date of the documents (most are from 2001 and 2002) strongly suggest that the source was a member of the Democratic staff, and not someone illegally stealing the memos. In any case, now that these memos have been distributed to the press, I believe that it is important for the Members of Congress and the public to see them and judge their contents for themselves. I am therefore submitting the first installment of these memos for the RECORD, and intend to submit more of them in the days to come. I hope that a full and vigorous debate of this important issue will help the process to move forward, so that the President's nominees can quickly receive the yes or no vote that they deserve.

Big fight early next year. Three benefits: (1) Sends message on Supreme Court; (2) Forces WH to bargain; (3) encourages more moderate nominees.

To work, need all 10 Dems on board and need commitment not to go to the floor. Query: will it be possible to get all 10 Dems to commit before a hearing? Doubtful. There is a big risk. We must choose a nominee tailored to our weakest link. E.g., Pickering is bad but is he had enough? Probably not—finish him AFTER.

Who to fight? Not Estrada—hard to beat, and don't want him on the Supremes.

Groups have 3 names: Kuhl, Sutton, and Owens. Kuhl seems like a bad idea, b/c Boxer will never return the BS. Why waste that power, freeing up another nominee to go through? Similar with Sutton—he is being held up right now. Sutton will be hard to beat—very strong paper record, impressive credentials. GOP will carp about how only criteria should be excellence ("Should Ideology Matter?" retread.) (Same problem with Estrada.) Sutton is personification of the threat the New Federalism poses to Civil Rights, but his defenders will muddle debate. Why not use someone else, show WH we mean business, then bargain to "release" hold on Sixth Circuit.

I say Owens. She is from Texas and appointed to SCT by Bush, so she will appear parochial and out of mainstream. She is definitively anti-abortion, in ways that make her look disingenuous. Pro-business. Questionable ethics. Plus can craft the message: concerted campaign to pack the Courts. Phase I: GOP blocks many well-qualified people—Johnson, Moreno, etc. Phase II: GOP picks extremists like Owen, and pushes hard. Court gets way out of wack. Focus not only on numbers, but tangible outcomes—rulings striking down VAWA, civil rights laws, environmental laws, etc.

No more hearings this year. Lay the foundations for next January/February. Schumer hearing on federalism, and the threat it poses. Coordinate media strategy, Drop hints. Schedule the hearing well in advance in January, so we don't face accusations of sandbagging.

Stress that we have cut the BS: no more anonymous holds, no more years without a hearing, no more ridiculous document requests, no more shutting down the Committee. Rather than hold a nominee up endlessly, and ruin their career, we will vote. There's a reason why they did that—most of Clinton's nominees were impeachable. There's a reason why we do what we do—most of Bush's nominees are Nazis. That doesn't mean we will roll over and play dead. Mainstream nominees will get quick turn around time. Controversial ones demand more careful scrutiny.

WHY HAVE A HEARING AT ALL?

Memorandum: June 21, 2002

To: Senators Kennedy, Schumer, Durbin, and Cantwell

From: —

Subject: Strategy on Judges

In advance of the Judiciary Democrats' meeting on Tuesday at 2:15, below is the strategy regarding judges that we recommend that you suggest to Senator Leahy.

1. Cancel or Reschedule Deborah Cook, 6th Circuit nominee. Senator Leahy is suggesting that a hearing for Deborah Cook be scheduled for August 1st, and, Senator Leahy may have promised Senator DeWine that he will hold a hearing for Cook this year. Cook is extremely controversial on labor, employee rights, and right to jury issues and should not have a hearing this year. If Senator Leahy has indeed promised DeWine a Cook hearing, we suggest that he schedule Cook for after the November elections. Given our schedule of controversial nominees (see below), it will be difficult to mount any effective challenge to Cook if she is scheduled

for early August. We recommend that Reena Raggi (2nd Circuit) be scheduled for early August instead of Deborah Cook.

2. Limit the Number of Hearings. Senator Leahy has promised hearings for Priscilla Owen, Miguel Estrada, and Michael McConnell. Other than these nominees, and the two remaining noncontroversial nominees Reena Raggi (2nd Circuit) and Jay Bybee (9th Circuit), no additional judges should be scheduled.

3. Timing of Hearings:

Owen. The consensus is to make Priscilla Owen the big fight for July 18th, as Senator Leahy has suggested, with the hope that we will succeed in defeating her.

Estrada. Miguel Estrada will be more difficult to defeat given the sparseness of his record. We agree with Senator Leahy that Estrada should be scheduled for September 19th. This will give the groups time to complete their research and the Committee time to collect additional information, including Estrada's Solicitor General memos (see below).

McConnell. McConnell will also be difficult to defeat. While he has a clear anti-choice record, he has the strong support of some Democrats and progressives. McConnell's clear anti-choice record, however, makes him a good nominee to bring up before the November elections. While Senator Leahy has suggested that a hearing for McConnell be scheduled on October 3rd, we would suggest October 10th, to provide enough time for preparation after the difficult Estrada hearing.

Suggested Schedule, July 18th: Priscilla Owen—5th Circuit; August 1st: Reena Raggi—2nd Circuit (non-controversial)—instead of Cook; September 5th: Jay Bybee—9th Circuit (supported by Reid); September 19th: Miguel Estrada—D.C. Circuit; October 10th: Michael McConnell—10th Circuit.

4. Obtaining Estrada's Solicitor General's Memos. Senator Leahy took the important first step of asking for Memoranda that Estrada produced while working at the Solicitor General's Office. Unfortunately, the Department of Justice has refused to turn over the memos, and Senator Leahy has been harshly criticized for this in the Press (two pieces in the Washington Post alone). We expect the Administration will continue to fight any attempt to turn these over, but there is precedent for getting these Memos—it was done for the Bork nomination and three other lower court nominations. We suggest that you encourage Senator Leahy to continue fighting the Administration for these Memos and, if possible, that one of you help him in this fight.

U. MICHIGAN SCANDAL

Memorandum: April 17, 2002

To: Senator (Kennedy)

From: —

Subject: Call from Elaine Jones re Scheduling of 6th Circuit Nominees

Elaine Jones of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF) tried to call you today to ask that the Judiciary Committee consider scheduling Julia Scott Gibbons, the uncontroversial nominee to the 6th Circuit at a later date, rather than at a hearing next Thursday, April 25th. As you know, Chairman Leahy would like to schedule a hearing next Thursday on a 6th Circuit nominee because the Circuit has only 9 active judges, rather than the authorized 16. (These vacancies are, as you know, the result of Republican inaction on Clinton nominees). Senator Leahy would also like to move a Southern nominee, and wants to do a favor for Senator Thompson.

Elaine would like the Committee to hold off on any 6th Circuit nominees until the

University of Michigan case regarding the constitutionality of affirmative action in higher education is decided by the en banc 6th Circuit. This case is considered the affirmative action case most likely to go to the Supreme Court. Rumors have been circulating that the case will be decided in the next few weeks. The thinking is that the current 6th Circuit will sustain the affirmative action program, but if a new judge with conservative views is confirmed before the case is decided, that new judge will be able, under 6th Circuit rules, to review the case and vote on it.

LDF asked Senator Leahy's staff yesterday to schedule Richard Clifton, an uncontroversial nominee to the 9th Circuit, before moving Gibbons, but they apparently refused. The decision has to be made today (or by early Thursday morning) since the hearing will be noticed on Thursday.

— and I are a little concerned about the propriety of scheduling hearings based on the resolution of a particular case. We are also aware that the 6th Circuit is in dire need of additional judges. Nevertheless we recommend that Gibbons be scheduled for a later hearing: the Michigan case is important, and there is little damage that we can foresee in moving Clifton first. (It should be noted that Clifton was nominated three months before Gibbons and that Clifton's seat, and not Gibbons', has been designated a judicial emergency.) Elaine will ask that no 6th Circuit nominee be scheduled until after the Michigan case is decided. This may be too much to promise: we only have three uncontroversial circuit court nominees left and two of these are from the 6th Circuit.

Recommendation: Let Elaine know that we will ask Senator Leahy to schedule Gibbons after Clifton. Given the dearth of uncontroversial nominees, however, the Committee will probably have to hold a hearing for Gibbons on May 9th even if there's yet no decision in the Michigan case.

VETERAN TRIBUTE FOR COLONEL ANDREW C. OLIVO

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of Colonel Andrew C. Olivo.

Colonel Andrew C. Olivo has served our country for many years in the United States Army Judge Advocate General Reserve. He was a part of the Desert Storm Conflict and Gulf War I. He has received numerous awards and medals for his services. These awards include two National Defense Service Medals and Army Commendation Medals. Colonel Olivo is also a recipient of four Meritorious Service Medals and the Humanitarian Service Medal with one service star.

At a time when we are once again at war, it is necessary to recognize the achievements of these national heroes. Due to their dedication, service, and sacrifice, they deserve our unwavering admiration and our unending gratitude.

Our country often takes for granted the freedoms and liberties our service men and women risk their lives to protect; yet by continuing to honor our veterans we preserve our nation's future by commemorating their past.

Thank you, Colonel Olivo, for your service and sacrifice. You are a true hero.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DON VANDERHOOF

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to my friend Don Vanderhoof. Don has served the community of Glenwood Springs, Colorado for many years. Over the last eight years, Don has held a seat on the City Council, the last two of which he served as Mayor. Don is a tremendous public servant, and a wonderful person, and it is my honor to call his many contributions to Glenwood Springs to the attention of this body of Congress and our nation.

Over the last eight years, Don was instrumental in providing leadership and guidance for many important City projects. During Don's tenure in city government, there were major additions to the resources available to the Glenwood Spring's Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments. In addition, the City added a new Community Center and City Hall, repaired the City's water delivery system, improved public transportation, and worked to maintain the hiking trails and beautiful wilderness areas surrounding the City. These are just a few of the many accomplishments in which Don Vanderhoof was involved for the betterment of the City of Glenwood Springs. There is no question that Glenwood Springs has become a better place as the result of Don's tireless dedication to its citizens.

The people of my hometown will miss having Don as a devoted public servant. However, Don does not intend to remain idle in his retirement. I know that he will remain very active in the Glenwood Springs community. Don will now have more time for the many volunteer and community service activities that he eagerly undertakes. In addition, Don will have the opportunity to spend more time with his lovely wife Eddie, and his many friends, neighbors and family members throughout town.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise and pay tribute to Don Vanderhoof. He has dedicated many years of his life to improving the quality of life for the citizens of Glenwood Springs and has accomplished an incredible amount to that end. In addition to his public service, Don is a great family man and a dear friend to many. He is one of Glenwood Springs' most beloved citizens. Don's life is the embodiment of all that makes this country great and I consider it an honor to call him a friend. Thank you Don, for your service.

THE NIGHTMARE IN TURKMENISTAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, November 25 will mark the one-year anniversary of events in Turkmenistan that turned that already bizarre autocracy into an even more nightmarish kingdom. According to the official version, opposition groups led by former high-ranking officials tried to assassinate Saparmurat Niyazov, the country's President-

for-Life. The attempt failed, the plotters were found, tried and imprisoned, and in the eyes of Niyazov's regime, justice has been done.

What actually happened that day is unclear. There may well have been a coup attempt against Niyazov, who has turned himself into virtually a living god. Or, as some opposition activists in exile maintain, the whole affair may have been staged by Niyazov to crack down even harder. Since no outsider has had access to those arrested in connection with the events, the truth may never be known.

Whatever happened, it is easy to understand the desperate frustration among Turkmen. Niyazov has made Turkmenistan the only one-party state in the former Soviet space, where one man decides everything, no opposition is permitted, all media are totally censored and the populace is forced to study the "rukhnama"—a dictator's rantings that purport to be a one-stop religion, national history and morality lesson.

What is clear is that Niyazov's response to November 25 has trampled on civilized norms, even if his allegations are true. In the wake of the arrests, all opposition—real or imagined—has been crushed. Quick show trials of the accused were broadcast on television, after which they received long prison sentences with no access to relatives or international organizations. Some of the opposition leaders have already died in prison. One individual who was arrested, an American citizen named Leonid Komarovsky of Massachusetts was eventually released, as a result of pressure from Washington. Upon gaining his freedom, he told the world of the horrible tortures people suffered at the hands of Turkmen security forces. The stories rival any we used to hear from the Soviet Union or Saddam Hussein's Iraq. In addition, relatives of those deemed "enemies of the people" have been targeted for persecution. The luckier ones merely are fired and thrown out of their apartments onto the streets; others have been arrested and tortured in prison or forced to watch their loved ones being tortured.

In response to this crisis, the OSCE invoked the Moscow Mechanism, a rarely-used tool to investigate particularly appalling human rights violations. But Niyazov refused to cooperate with the OSCE, whose officially designated rapporteur was denied a visa. Nevertheless, he was able to compile a comprehensive dossier of horror, which documents as well as possible without access to prisons, the mistreatment and abuse of those arrested and the persecution of their relatives. The rapporteur also forwarded to the Government of Turkmenistan recommendations to move towards reform. Niyazov has dismissed them as "offensive" and "interference in internal affairs."

Niyazov has also refused U.S. officials entry to his jails. Recently, Ambassador Stephen Minikes, head of the U.S. Delegation to OSCE visited Ashgabat, but despite his explicit request, was not allowed to check on the health of one of those arrested: former Turkmen Foreign Minister and OSCE Ambassador Batyr Berdiev. There are persistent rumors he has died in prison.

One year after the events of November 25, Saparmurat Niyazov remains in power. He continues his crackdown, and the country's downward spiral accelerates. Niyazov has reintroduced exit visas, a legacy of the Soviet past we thought had been definitively overcome. Just last week, he instituted new laws

harshly restricting freedom of religion, which is trampled upon daily in Turkmenistan; groups brave enough to meet risk home raids, imprisonment, deportation, internal exile, house eviction and even torture. The new provisions further empower regime agents to squash religious practice. Now, individuals caught more than once in a year acting on the behalf of an unregistered community can be fined between ten and thirty months of wages, or be sent to hard labor for up to one year. Of course, registration is in effect impossible to obtain, leaving religious communities and their members in a highly vulnerable position.

A recent Niyazov decree on NGO activity makes it punishable for most Turkmen to interact with foreigners. Representatives of non-Turkmen ethnic groups, such as Uzbeks or Russians, face discrimination in education and employment. Niyazov has not only reestablished and strengthened the environment of fear, he has deliberately isolated his country from outside influences. Under his rule, Turkmenistan has no chance of developing normally.

As November 25 approaches, we recall that when a political system centralizes all power in the hands one man, offering no possibilities for participation to anyone else, people may be tempted to change that system by any means. And we have occasion to consider the eternal validity of Lord Acton's dictum: "Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Unfortunately, the U.S. response to Turkmenistan's blatant disregard for human rights has been shamefully weak. In August, although Turkmenistan violates freedom of emigration by requiring exit visas, the Administration made the astonishing decision to exempt Turkmenistan from Jackson-Vanik requirements on the free movement of citizens.

Our leverage on this particular dictator may be weak but we have opportunities to express our outrage about these ongoing abuses and to align ourselves with the forces of freedom and democracy. In addition to ending the Jackson-Vanik waiver, the State Department should designate Turkmenistan a "Country of Particular Concern" under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. The regime's well-documented record of "particularly severe violations of religious freedom" unquestionably meets the statutory threshold envisioned when we passed the Act of "systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom."

The United States and the international community must condemn the actions of Niyazov's regime and continue working to bring Turkmenistan back towards civilized and democratic norms. Any other approach betrays our own principles.

ON INTRODUCTION OF THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT III

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, Today, I am proud to join with Congressman McDERMOTT, Chairman ROYCE, Congressman JEFFERSON, Congressman PAYNE and Congressman NEAL in the House, and Senator LUGAR in the Sen-

ate, in introducing legislation to begin the third phase of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

It has been almost ten years since a bipartisan group of Members came together to help create a trade and investment framework between our great country and the countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

It has been more than three years since the first phase of that effort became law.

In that short time, the results have been impressive:

In three years, AGOA textile and apparel exports to the United States have doubled, rising from \$570 million in 1999 to \$1.1 billion for 2002. This total comprises 9 percent of all AGOA exports.

AGOA exports now comprise approximately two percent of all U.S. textile and apparel imports—a 100 percent increase from 2000, when AGOA took effect.

Africa's 92 percent export growth rate in textile and apparel products is 10 times that for China, Latin America, Europe and other major textile and apparel exporters.

However, we cannot afford to sit back and admire what we have done. So much remains to be done to fulfill the promise of this important legislation and this important trade program—to fill in the gaps that still exist.

So, today, I join with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to call upon the House, the Senate and the President to take the next important step to broaden and deepen the commercial and bilateral relationships between the United States and African countries.

We need to ensure that the benefits of AGOA

We need to do this for so many reasons—bringing Africa more and more into the mainstream of the world trading system, strengthening the bilateral ties between the United States and African countries, giving women and men in the poorest countries in the world the chance to earn a fair and decent living so that the seeds of growth and a better life and a middle class society are sewn, rather than the seeds of discontent that we see in some other regions of the world.

To do this, we need to push forward. Specifically, we need to extend the effective date of AGOA, extend the ability of AGOA least developed countries to use fabrics from third countries, and bring under the AGOA framework the important agricultural products that many countries in the region seek to produce and export.

In the agriculture area, Africa's exports have actually *decreased* by 4.5 percent (or \$25 million) since 1999. While duty free treatment will not completely solve the problem caused in part by large domestic support programs in the EU and elsewhere, this step will certainly help.

In other areas, the bill encourages both responsible conservation and responsible development through a provision in support of ecotourism, an area where many African countries have an important natural and comparative advantage that they are seeking to use in a sustainable and responsible way.

I look forward to working with many others on both sides of the aisle who have been so supportive of AGOA I and AGOA II, particularly Chairman BILL THOMAS and Chairman PHIL CRANE of the Trade Subcommittee, Congressman AMO HOUGHTON in the House, and Senator BILL FRIST and others in the Senate,

along with the distinguished African Diplomatic Corps, and so many in the business community to realize our goal.

Finally, we intend this bill to be a starting point, and that as we move forward, we can work with Ambassador Zoellick and his staff, and Secretary Evans and his staff, to improve the legislation to reflect best the development needs of sub-Saharan Africa.

Also hope we can work together on other initiatives to ensure that the poorest countries of the world—such as Haiti and Bangladesh and Cambodia—are not left behind after 2005.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ALLOW FOR PRIORITY IN THE ISSUANCE OF IMMIGRANT VISAS TO SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that will provide for the expedited reunification of the families of our Filipino World War II veterans who have become citizens of the United States.

This body has many times over recognized the courage and commitment of the Filipino troops who fought alongside our armed forces in the Philippines during World War II. In 1990, we provided a waiver from certain naturalization requirements for these veterans, and many thereafter became proud citizens and residents of our country. And this year we appear poised to provide one further long-delayed and long-denied measure of justice by granting them veterans benefits which were unjustly denied to them in 1946.

But a huge gap still remains, for we did not also permit naturalization in 1990 to the children of these same veterans. What my bill does is allow for the sons and daughters of those veterans that became U.S. citizens through the process established in 1990 to have priority in their respective immigration categories.

These are real-life issues, for the stories of families who have waited years to be reunited are heartbreaking. For example, a veteran and his wife living in Hawaii filed immigration petitions for two of their six adult children; they have waited over ten years for a visa to be issued to either. Another veteran petitioned successfully for his wife's immigration visa, but has not been as successful with the applications for their five adult children. Again, this family has been holding on for ten years with the hope that they will one day live in the U.S. as a complete family.

As we all know, our Filipino World War II veterans are entering the sunset years of their lives. We have done what we can to give adequate veterans benefits for their commendable service. I now urge my colleagues to recognize and provide for the reunification of these families of our Filipino World War II veterans by supporting this bill.

VETERAN TRIBUTE FOR LANCE
CORPORAL CARR CAMPBELL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of Lance Corporal Carr Campbell.

Lance Corporal Campbell served in the liberation of Kuwait in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. During the Gulf War he engaged in surveying borders, calling in artillery hits on scud missile sites, and gathering intelligence among Iraqi prisoners of war. Because of his stellar service in this conflict, Lance Corporal Campbell was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, South West Asian Service Medal with three stars, Saudi Arabian Liberation of Kuwait Medal, and Kuwait Liberation of Kuwait Medal.

At a time when we are once again at war, it is necessary to recognize the achievements of these national heroes. Due to their dedication, service, and sacrifice, they deserve our unwavering admiration and our unending gratitude.

Our country often takes for granted the freedoms and liberties our service men and women risk their lives to protect; yet by continuing to honor our veterans we preserve our nation's future by commemorating their past.

Thank you, Lance Corporal Campbell, for your service and sacrifice. You are a true hero.

TRIBUTE TO DESTINAE RAE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you with a solemn heart to pay tribute to a remarkable young woman. Destinae Rae passed away recently after a long and courageous battle with cancer. I knew Dusty well, she was a tremendous young woman who spread happiness and faith to every person she met and it is my honor to call her compassion and kindheartedness to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation.

Dusty grew up in Colorado and had five wonderful children and five beautiful grandchildren. The week before Dusty passed away, she was blessed with another grandchild. Dusty was a tremendous mother, grandmother, daughter, sister and friend.

Dusty was a devoted Christian and a member of the Evergreen Baptist Church in her home of Evergreen, Colorado. Dusty was also involved in volunteer work. She was active in a number of cancer associations in Colorado and dedicated a great deal of her time to comforting the victims of cancer and raising funds for medical research. I know that many cancer victims had their lives bettered by Dusty's dedication and compassion for that cause.

Dusty will also be remembered for the many lives that she touched with her amazing singing voice. Dusty used her singing talents to spread her faith, happiness and joy for life to scores of people throughout Colorado. Dusty spent her last years recording and performing

Christian music. She truly had the voice of an angel.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise before you to pay tribute to Destinae Rae. Dusty's parents, my longtime friends Dan and Marty Thompson, describe her best as a woman who was beautiful on the outside, and had an even more beautiful heart. We will all miss Dusty, and my heart goes out to her loved ones in this difficult time.

THE NATIONAL FILM
PRESERVATION ACT OF 2003

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, the distinguished gentleman from Michigan, Representative JOHN CONYERS, and I introduce "the National Film Preservation Act of 2003." Senator PATRICK LEAHY joins us by introducing identical legislation in the Senate.

This legislation reauthorizes the National Film Preservation Board (NFPB) and the National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF) for ten years. The NFPF is an independent, non-profit organization established in 1996 with bipartisan Congressional support to help save America's film heritage. The NFPF is the charitable affiliate of the NFPB of the Library of Congress, which was also established in 1996.

This legislation also increases the authorized appropriations for the NFPF from \$500,000 in fiscal year 2004 and 2005 up to \$1,000,000 in fiscal years 2006 through 2013. It authorizes additional appropriations not to exceed \$1,000,000 for cooperative film preservation and access initiatives by the NFPF for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2013. All authorized appropriations are only to be made available to match private contributions to the NFPF.

The excellent work and strong track record of the NFPB and NFPF justify both the reauthorization and increased authorization of appropriations provided by this bill. Working with archives and others in the film preservation community, the NFPF supports activities that save films for future generations, improve film access for education and exhibition, and increase public commitment to preserving film as a cultural resource, art form, and historical record. In essence, its mission is to save America's "orphan films"—newsreels, silent films, documentaries, avant-garde works, and other independent films that are not preserved by commercial interests.

Over the past seven years, the NFPF has done great work in furtherance of this goal. Working with more than 80 organizations, it has helped preserve approximately 600 films and collections. Through its preservation efforts, the NFPF has made it possible for organizations in 34 states and the District of Columbia to use these films in education and research. Many of the films preserved provide unique windows into American history and culture. For instance, films preserved through NFPF efforts include social dramas from Thomas Edison's studio, the earliest "talkie" of an American president, and home movies clandestinely shot by Japanese Americans in World War II detention camps.

As authorization for the NFPB and NFPF expired on September 30, 2003, Congress must act quickly on this legislation. We cannot allow the important work of these organizations to lapse. Over 50% of the films made before 1950 have disintegrated, and only 10% of the movies produced in the United States before 1929 still exist. We must act to stem further losses of this rich cultural heritage. No art form is more uniquely American than film, but unfortunately, few art forms are more susceptible to degradation through passage of time and poor preservation.

All parties interested in preservation and expansion of the public domain, whether for research, education, or further commercial exploitation, must join Representative Conyers, Senator Leahy, and myself in securing passage of this legislation. While it may be intellectually stimulating to debate radical copyright revisions as mechanisms to expand the public domain, these debates should not detract from the pursuit of proven methods, like NFPF projects, to preserve and expand the public domain. The tight fiscal picture for the U.S. government indicates that this legislation will be very difficult to pass, thus all public domain advocates should focus their full attention on this effort.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES LEWIS, III

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend a remarkable man who lives in Leawood, Kansas, in the Third Congressional District. Charles Lewis, III, has served as the golf pro at Mission Hills Country Club for more than 25 years, in addition to his many other services to the Kansas City community. Unfortunately, for the people of Kansas City, Charles recently announced his plans to retire.

On September 14, 1960, Charles Lewis, who was competing in his first U.S. Amateur tournament, beat Jack Nicklaus at the St. Louis Country Club, a feat which some experts have called the greatest match-play upset of the 20th century.

Since he was a child, Charles Lewis has devoted much of his time and energy to golf. In addition to perfecting his own skill through practice, Charles has spent many years at the Mission Hills Country Club helping others do the same. He also serves on the advisory board of the Junior Golf Foundation of Greater Kansas City, an organization that has introduced more than 3,000 children to the game.

I commend Charles Lewis, III on this 20th day of November 2003 for his incredible skill and dedication to sharing his passion for this exciting game, and place into the RECORD an article from the Kansas City Star detailing his achievements.

[From the Kansas City Star, June 4, 2000]

LOCAL PRO ONCE BEAT NICKLAUS

(By Howard Richman)

On a wall in his Mission Hills Country Club pro-shop office, Charles Lewis III displays one of his most prized possessions, a portrait of Jack Nicklaus.

Forty years ago this summer, Lewis stunned the golf universe when he owned

Nicklaus, the man who has been called the greatest golfer in history. Nicklaus will be in town Tuesday to play in the Children's Mercy Hospital Golf Classic at Blue Hills Country Club.

But one sultry, unforgettable afternoon, Lewis knocked off Nicklaus in what some experts have called the greatest match-play upset of the 20th century.

It was Sept. 14, 1960. The site: St. Louis Country Club. In anticipation of large galleries, ropes kept the spectators on the outside looking in, which was a good thing because this U.S. Amateur tournament had taken on the feel of a major professional championship.

Lewis, who was born in Miami, Okla., and raised in Little Rock, Ark., was participating in his first U.S. Amateur. A 19-year-old unknown, Lewis seemed to handle his first major event as if it were a scramble with some friends back home at The Country Club of Little Rock.

Lewis won his first three match-play matches, rarely in jeopardy through any of them. Although he had no real big-time-event background, Lewis knew he was prepared for this moment.

"As a kid, I'd go play on my dad's course (his father was the head pro at the country club)," Lewis said. "Sometimes there wouldn't be anybody out there. I'd play a variety of shots. I'd go around trees. Under them. Over them. I had no fear of hitting shots."

Lewis had to face his fear, if he had any, in the fourth round at St. Louis Country Club. Lewis was about to go head to head with Nicklaus, the defending Amateur champion and runner-up to Arnold Palmer in the U.S. Open just a few months earlier. In the morning's third round, Nicklaus shot a 31 on the front side on the way to a 6 and 5 drubbing of Phil Rodgers. In his early match, Lewis beat Connecticut amateur champion Dick Sideowf 6 and 4.

Then it was time for Lewis to match his game against Nicklaus, who was receiving accolades in the same fashion that Tiger Woods would receive them more than 30 years later.

"He (Nicklaus) was the fair-haired boy," Lewis said. "People talked about how he did things different than anybody else, how he could hit it straighter and farther, like the way they talk about Tiger."

"Me? I was the country boy. But I was never really scared. I had played a lot of golf."

It was estimated that more than 5,000 spectators tailed Lewis and Nicklaus in their match, an impressive crowd for a non-title match. It turned out to be a match that Lewis dominated, due in part to Nicklaus' awful putting.

Lewis birdied the par-4 No. 1 and went 1-up. Nicklaus bogeyed the second hole, which Lewis won. When Lewis birdied the par-5 fifth, he went 3-up. Nicklaus 3-putted No. 6. And No. 7. By the time they made the turn, Lewis was a cozy 6-up. The upset was all but sealed.

"Jack and I didn't really talk during the match," Lewis recalled, "but I do remember his dad say something to me as I was walking along. He said, 'You're thumping my little boy.' I'd met Jack's dad before. He was a class act. Like Jack."

Nicklaus finally won his first hole at No. 10 but not because of anything spectacular on his part. Lewis 3-putted. Lewis, though, didn't swerve out of control. In fact, The New York Times reported that Lewis, "under the pressure of a huge gallery, and meeting his first big test, was cool and poised."

The match came to an early conclusion when Lewis hit his 4-wood approach at the par-5 15th onto the green. Nicklaus' second

shot found the rough. Lewis birdied and closed the deal. His 5 and 3 win over Nicklaus shocked golf circles. Just last year, Golf World magazine ranked Lewis' win the greatest match-play upset of the 20th century.

Nicklaus, who won the Amateur in 1961, has the fourth-best winning percentage in U.S. Amateurs of players with at least 20 wins (24-5 record). Lewis, though, prevented him from possibly winning three in a row. The only one who has done that was Woods during 1994-96.

In his book, *My Story*, Nicklaus said this about his loss to Lewis: "I 3-putted six times, once from near gimme range, and never had a hope against Charlie Lewis, a good golfer from Arkansas. I learned some more about controlling the psyche and about self-pacing from that experience."

Lewis still remembers what Nicklaus said following their match.

"He said, 'Good luck. . . I hope you win it all.' I think he meant it," Lewis said.

But Lewis couldn't win it all. He went on and won his next two matches. The sixth one was important because it earned him an invitation to the Masters. In the scheduled 36-hole semifinals, Lewis' streak was halted. He fell to Bob Gardner 2 and 1.

Lewis played in two more U.S. Amateurs. But none of them matched his achievement in 1960. After serving in Vietnam with the Marines, Lewis came back, won the 1967 Arkansas Amateur, then gave the PGA Tour a shot. He thinks his best finish was 14th place, which was worth \$2,200. After two years, Lewis relinquished the idea of trying to make it out there.

"His personality wasn't made for the tour," said Lewis' wife, Marilyn, who plays more golf than her husband. She's on the golf course five times a week.

"He could play the game," Marilyn said. "But he hated going from town to town. He wanted to be somewhere where he could put his feet up and relax."

Lewis returned to Little Rock, where a friend told him about an assistant club-pro job in Kansas City. Lewis phoned Duke Gibson, the pro at Blue Hills Country Club, and Gibson hired Lewis over the phone. Twenty-eight years ago, Lewis moved on to Mission Hills.

On Tuesday, Lewis hopes to rekindle memories with Nicklaus.

"It's been years since I talked to Jack," Lewis said. "We played a practice round together when I played in the Masters. I hope I get a chance to talk to him. As I said, he's a class act. But I'm sure he would have preferred to beat me."

"But that was a day I accomplished something. I saw more media than I had ever seen. I got telegrams from people I didn't even know. Next to my marriage, that (beating Nicklaus) is the greatest thrill of my life."

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION COMMENDING IRAQI WOMEN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, Representative BIGGERT, Representative HOOLEY, and I introduce legislation to commend Iraqi women for their participation in Iraqi government and civil society and to advocate for the inclusion of women's rights in the Iraqi constitution.

The women of Iraq should have a stake in the future of their country. We must support

the efforts of the Iraqi women to require that the constitution of Iraq includes equal rights for women. Iraq has the opportunity to begin a new chapter by rejecting the ways of Saddam Hussein, and embracing democracy, including the right to vote for all its citizens. I believe that the United States should support these efforts in every possible way.

I look forward to working with Representative BIGGERT, Representative HOOLEY and my other colleagues to pass this resolution and to fight for the rights of women in Iraq.

TRIBUTE TO DR. NORMAN N.
BURG, MD

MAURICE HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Dr. Norman N. Burg. Through more than 40 years of medical practice in Ulster County, New York, Dr. Burg has touched the lives of countless people and has improved the delivery of regional health care services immeasurably. I am pleased to join the health care community in Ulster County in congratulating Dr. Burg on his outstanding career.

During his four decades of service in Ulster County, Dr. Burg has operated a private practice, served on staff at two local hospitals, having been president of the medical staff at both. He has also contributed his leadership skills to serving the Ulster County Infirmary, Ferncliff Nursing Home, St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie and Northern Dutchess Hospital.

Throughout his career, Dr. Burg has taken great pride in sharing his accumulated knowledge of medicine and worked diligently to educate aspiring physicians. Among his many accomplishments, he was a founder and the first program director of the residency program at Family Medicine in Kingston. This program has trained more than 100 family physicians, the majority of whom continue to practice medicine in New York. It also paved the way for the creation of the Mid Hudson Family Health Institute that currently provides health care services to under-insured and uninsured residents of the Hudson Valley. The Institute stands as a testament to Dr. Burg's deeply held belief that all citizens should be afforded access to health care regardless of their economic situation.

Dr. Burg has also been extremely involved in his community since coming to Ulster County. His list of activities include serving as the school physician and football team physician for Onteora High School, president and coach of the Woodstock Little League, EMT instructor, board member of the Woodstock Volunteer Ambulance Squad and chairman of the Woodstock Narcotics Guidance Council.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Dr. Norman Burg. His deep commitment to improving the lives of people around him has yielded a distinguished record of service and has made Ulster County and much of New York, a better, healthier place to live.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT CHEN
SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN UPON HIS
RECEPTION OF THE INTER-
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
AWARD

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on November 4, 2003 I had the privilege of entering into the RECORD the prepared remarks of President Chen Shui-bian upon his acceptance of the International Human Rights Award on October 31, 2003. It is with great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, that today I am able to enter into the RECORD President Chen's remarks as delivered.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to once again commend President Chen for his decades-long struggle for human rights and democracy in Taiwan and congratulate him upon his acceptance of the International Human Rights Award. President Chen is a freedom fighter we can all look up to, and it is with great pleasure that I enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD his remarks, as delivered.

President Horton, Congressman Lantos, Congressman Ackerman, Mr. Rabaut, Mr. Wu, Executive Director Dr. Kantrow, Board Member Dr. Chen, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen: Good evening!

On behalf of the government and people of Taiwan, I would like to pay special tribute to the International League for Human Rights (ILHR). Over the last 62 years since its establishment, the League has worked unrelentingly in carrying out its mission of defending human rights and rights advocates who have risked their lives to promote the ideals of a just and civil society.

The Human Rights Award conferred on me this evening is an honor bestowed upon the 23 million people of Taiwan. It signifies both affirmations and expectations. The award is representative of the international validation that the people of Taiwan have received for decades of effort in pursuit of democracy, freedom and human rights. It is also a reminder that we have assumed by destiny the duty of protecting human rights and of upholding international human rights principles.

The year 2000 marked Taiwan's first peaceful transfer of power and our country's first alternation of political parties, an accomplishment unprecedented in the history of all Chinese societies. In my inaugural speech, I proposed a goal of building our nation on the principles of human rights. We are committed to abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action. We also pledged to bring Taiwan on par with the international human rights system despite our authoritarian past.

Over the past three and a half years, concrete actions have been taken to fulfill our commitments. In step with the institutionalization of human rights protection mechanisms, comprehensive human rights policies and implementation measures have been carefully drafted, as outlined in our Human Rights Policy White Paper, and the Organic Law of the National Human Rights Commission is currently under review in our National Legislature.

My office has established a presidential Human Rights Advisory Committee and the Cabinet has also established an Inter-Min-

isterial Committee. Both have been collaborating with local and international human rights NGOs for the purpose of incorporating the International Bill of Rights into a "Taiwan Bill of Rights." Furthermore, the "National Human Rights Report" will soon be published—another first for Taiwan—and work is in progress for a National Human Rights Memorial Museum responsible for social education and raising public awareness.

My friends, although our journey has not been easy, Taiwan has not stood alone. Support from the international community, particularly the United States, has played a critical role. I will never forget the watershed event—the Kaohsiung Incident—in Taiwan's democratization process. On December 10, 1979, a group of Taiwan citizens defiantly held a rally to commemorate International Human Rights Day. Because such activity was forbidden by the ruling regime of the time, rally leaders were charged with illegal assembly and conspiracy for sedition.

As a defense attorney in the Kaohsiung Incident, I personally witnessed the efforts of ILHR, who sent Professor John Kaplan to Taiwan to observe the trial at the military tribunal. The rest of the international human rights community also rendered assistance—and inspiration—to Taiwan's democratic movement.

My wife and I were both victims of human rights violation. I was sentenced to prison for fighting for freedom of speech. My wife was seriously injured in what is believed to be a politically motivated accident and must spend the rest of her life in a wheelchair. However, like the brave sacrifices made by Taiwan's pioneers of democracy, our suffering only serves to strengthen the determination of the Taiwanese people in their pursuit of political and personal freedoms.

Today, there are no more blacklists, no more political prisoners, no more religious persecution. Citizens in Taiwan now enjoy full civil rights—freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of press and other categories of rights. Despite our exclusion from the United Nations, Taiwan has never slowed its pace to push for human rights reform.

At a time when the international community is caught up in debates on "clashes of civilization" with regard to human rights protection, Taiwan's experience is proof that human rights are a universal value and humanity's common asset. All countries and individuals should have access to these universal rights; none should be subjected to a double-standard. As stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to the government of the United States of America for its efforts to help promote human rights in Taiwan. Section II(C) of the "Taiwan Relations Act", which was passed by the U.S. Congress in 1979, stipulates that "the preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people in Taiwan are hereby reaffirmed as objective of the United States." We appreciate, and are always mindful of the concern and support a more established democracy has given to a fledgling one.

Taiwan's achievement in human rights and democracy so far would not have been possible were it not for the generosity of those of the international community who have stood behind us. Likewise, we would not be able to receive the affirmation and commendation of the ILHR and other international human rights organizations.

Of course, a sound and solid institutionalized system is requisite for the effective protection of human rights. Taiwan has now established a fair electoral environment with an increasingly vigorous civil society. However, much remain to be further strengthened in terms of consolidating and deepening our democracy and human rights. Whether we succeed or not would rely on the collective and continuing efforts of the people, particularly on whether we can consolidate our democracy by rectifying the inadequacies in our constitutional framework.

More than two centuries ago, the founding fathers of the United States spurred in Constitutional debate, prompting a great New Yorker, Mr. Alexander Hamilton, to criticize "the insufficiency of the present Confederation to preserve the Union." He argued in "The Federalist Papers" that the Articles of Confederation failed to address issues such as a checks-and-balances system of the government, separation of powers among agencies, fair representation of the States, and safeguarding freedom of the people. He concluded that the very design of the Articles of Confederation was insufficient to meet the needs of the American people.

As a result of extensive discussions and debates by America's founding fathers, the Constitution of the United States of America was created and has been honored to this day. The U.S. Constitution became the pulse of American society, and allowed for amendments, including Bill of Rights, to be incorporated, thereby guaranteeing freedom and laying a strong foundation for sustainable development of the American democracy.

Taiwan now faces a similar "insufficiency" of the constitutional framework. As my country's leader, it is imperative that I shoulder responsibility for Taiwan's national development and set a clear vision for the future. I believe that a sound and sustainable constitutional framework can be created through rational debate and engendered by civic consciousness. This is the rationale upon which I have proposed the concept of "hastening the birth of a new constitution for Taiwan."

The "hastening of a new Taiwan constitution" will determine whether or not our democracy can come into full bloom. This, strengthened and supplemented by the institutions of direct democracy, such as referendums, would be a necessary step in advancing Taiwan's human rights and the deepening of its democracy. One must not be misled by the contention that holding referendums or re-engineering our constitutional framework, bears any relevance to the "Four No's plus one" pledge presented in my inaugural speech. Neither should matters concerning Taiwan's constitutional development be simplistically interpreted as a political debate of "unification versus independence." I stand before you today, appealing to the collective conscience of the world community, asking that the voice of Taiwan be heard, for ours is the voice of democracy and progress. It is my job as President, to safeguard the security, democracy, freedom and human rights of the 23 million people of Taiwan, and, in so doing, build a solid foundation for the sustainable progress of Taiwan's continuing democratization.

The progression of democracy and human rights in Taiwan not only signifies a triumph of our people in the relentless pursuit for freedom, it is also a torch of democracy for all Chinese societies and has become an indispensable asset to the United States as well as the international society. I have great confidence that by advancing our democracy, we shall show where Taiwan stands in terms of values: A veritable part of the world's democratic community.

While furthering human rights in Taiwan, I call for a joint effort among Asian governments and regional NGOs for a regional framework for the advancement of human rights, including a state-sponsored regional charter, a regional commission, and a regional court of human rights. The newly founded Taiwan Foundation for Democracy can serve as one of the channels through which we shall endeavor to make our rightful contributions and share out experience in the protection and promotion of human rights. I want Taiwan to be a positive contributing force in the international human rights movement.

On the Green Island, situated off the south-east coast of Taiwan, there used to be a concentration camp and prison for the confinement and deprivation of countless human rights defenders. On this island, the Taiwanese equivalent to the infamous Robin Island of South Africa, there stands a monument on which names of victims of human rights abuse are inscribed. The epitaph reads: "In those times, how mothers wept through long nights for their imprisoned children."

I have kept that epitaph in my heart, and tonight, I would like to share it with you as a tribute to all who support, advocate, and have stood up in the name of human rights: Let there be no more fear, let there be no more tears. Let the world take Taiwan as an example. She is emerging from her democratic metamorphosis.

While I am standing on this stage, receiving this Human Rights Award and giving this speech, out there is a group of people protesting and shouting. I must tell them clearly: You are in a wrong place and protesting to the wrong person; for you should be happy for me to receive this Award. Human rights are universal. The path towards human rights is the right path and a road of no return. The democratic achievements of Taiwan and the deepening of human rights there can serve as a beacon for others. What you should ask yourselves is: Why can Taiwan do it and we cannot? Along with the 23 million people in Taiwan, I would like to invite the people protesting out there to share my joy and pride in receiving the Human Rights Award. Do believe in democracy, in freedom and in human rights. We will make it.

Thank you.

AMENDMENT TO SUPPORT CURRENT U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE POLICY AGAINST PATENTING HUMAN ORGANISMS

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this summer I introduced an amendment that provides congressional support for the current U.S. Patent and Trademark Office policy against patenting human organisms, including human embryos and fetuses. This amendment was approved by the House of Representatives with bipartisan support on July 22, 2003, as Sec. 801 of the Commerce/Justice/State appropriations bill.

On November 5th of this year, I submitted to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an analysis of my amendment that offers a more complete elaboration of what I stated on July 22nd, namely, that this amendment "has no bearing on stem cell research or patenting genes, it only affects patenting human organisms,

human embryos, human fetuses or human beings."

However, some have continued to misrepresent my amendment by claiming it would also prohibit patent claims directed to methods to produce human organisms. Moreover, some incorrectly claim that my amendment would prohibit patents on claims directed to subject matter other than human organisms. This is simply untrue.

What I want to point out is that the U.S. Patent Office has already issued patents on genes, stem cells, animals with human genes, and a host of non-biologic products used by humans, but it has not issued patents on claims directed to human organisms, including human embryos and fetuses. My amendment would not affect the former, but would simply affirm the latter. This position is reaffirmed in the following U.S. Patent Office letter of November 20, 2003.

I submit to the RECORD a letter from James Rogan, Undersecretary and Director of the U.S. Patent office, that supports the enactment of my amendment because it "is fully consistent with our policy."

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE,
November 20, 2003.

Hon. TED STEVENS,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to present the Administration's position on the Weldon amendment adopted by the House during consideration of H.R. 2799, the Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations bill FY 2004, and the effect it would have on the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) policy on patenting living subject matter. For the reasons outlined below, we view the Weldon amendment as fully consistent with USPTO's policy on the non-patentability of human life-forms.

The Weldon Amendment would prohibit the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office from issuing any patent "on claims directed to or encompassing a human organism." The USPTO understands the Weldon Amendment to provide unequivocal congressional backing for the long-standing USPTO policy of refusing to grant any patent containing a claim that encompasses any member of the species *Homo sapiens* at any stage of development. It has long been USPTO practice to reject any claim in a patent application that encompasses a human life-form at any stage of development, including a human embryo or human fetus; hence claims directed to living "organisms" are to be rejected unless they include the adjective "nonhuman."

The USPTO's policy of rejecting patent application claims that encompass human lifeforms, which the Weldon Amendment elevates to an unequivocal congressional prohibition, applies regardless of the manner and mechanism used to bring a human organism into existence (e.g., somatic cell nuclear transfer, in vitro fertilization, parthenogenesis). If a patent examiner determines that a claim is directed to a human life-form at any stage of development, the claim is rejected as non-statutory subject matter and will not be issued in a patent as such.

As indicated in Representative Weldon's remarks in the Congressional Record of November 5, 2003, the referenced language precludes the patenting of human organisms, including human embryos. He further indicated that the amendment has "exactly the same scope as the current USPTO policy," which assures that any claim that can be broadly construed as a human being, including a human embryo or fetus, is not patentable subject matter. Therefore, our under-

standing of the plain language of the Weldon Amendment is fully consistent with the detailed statements that the author of the amendment, Representative Weldon, has made in the Congressional Record regarding the meaning and intent of his amendment.

Given that the scope of Representative Weldon's amendment does not alter the USPTO policy on the non-patentability of human life-forms at any stage of development and is fully consistent with our policy, we support its enactment.

With best personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,

JAMES E. ROGAN,
Under Secretary and Director.

THE STUDENT AID STREAMLINED DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2003

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Student Aid Streamlined Disclosure Act, to enhance the privacy of individuals who apply for a federal student loan or Pell Grant and to ensure the integrity of student aid programs administered by the Secretary of Education.

This year, the Department of Education anticipates that more than 13 million people will apply for federal student aid. In order to verify income information, approximately 4 million of these applicants will be selected and required to hand over detailed tax information to school administrators with few controls in place to guard against redisclosure or misuse of this highly personal information. In addition, nearly 100,000 people will be required to waive their right to taxpayer privacy as a condition of applying for an income-contingent student loan.

The current process used by the Department of Education to verify the income information supplied by students is not only unnecessarily invasive of student privacy, but it also is ineffective. Numerous studies by the Department of Education and the Education Inspector General have concluded that income information supplied by students does not match information on file with the Internal Revenue Service. In fact, a recent study of applications filed during fiscal years 2001 and 2002 found that the Department of Education had paid \$602 million in Pell Grants to individuals who were either ineligible or eligible for smaller awards.

The General Accounting Office has confirmed that this substantial misallocation of resources could be corrected if Congress would redesign the law that governs sharing of information between the Department of Education and the Internal Revenue Service. I am pleased to say that the bill I am introducing today would accomplish that task in a way that enhances taxpayer privacy.

This legislation would provide for income verification for every student loan application, but it would require disclosure of information on file with the IRS only in cases where there is a discrepancy that is large enough to impact the student grant or loan. Sensitive tax information from the IRS could not be disclosed directly to schools or contractors, but could only be disclosed to Department of Education officials or to the taxpayer who filed the return.

This tax legislation is a priority of the Bush Administration and the Education and Workforce Committee has endorsed data sharing

as a means of reducing waste, fraud, and abuse in programs administered by the Secretary of Education. Congress has already authorized the Secretary of Education to match data with the IRS in the Higher Education Act of 1998, but, to date, the Internal Revenue Code has not been amended to allow this matching to take place. My staff has worked closely with the Treasury Department, the Office of Management and Budget, the Joint Committee on Taxation, and the Department of Education in developing this proposal.

This proposal is the right policy and, with all of our consultations, we believe that it is the correct technical solution. I am introducing it as we hopefully close out the first session of the 108th Congress in order that it can be reviewed over the next few months by all participants in the student loan community. I ask any stakeholders—students, parents, schools, lenders and loan processors—to review this legislation to be sure that there are no unintended consequences of the bill. I welcome constructive criticism of this bill and look forward to seeing it enacted next year.

H.R. 6—ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 6, the energy bill that America has waited so long for. Like the original House version of this legislation, I intend to support the conference report on the floor today, but not without some reservation.

Since being elected to Congress in 1978, I've carefully watched our federal spending and have advocated for a balanced budget. Under our current policies, America is facing a \$400 billion budget shortfall, and we will continue to run deficits for the foreseeable future. This energy bill conference report continues on that path of fiscal irresponsibility. The Joint Committee on Taxation stated this bill will cost up to \$23.5 billion dollars. I am very disappointed this conference report didn't include the offsets that the Senate version did.

However, I truly believe this legislation provides the proper framework to diversify America's fuel sources. As Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Committee, I'm glad there are greater incentives for increased production of ethanol. I'm glad to see production tax credits for wind, solar and biomass energy, as well as nuclear electricity generation. Diversification of our nation's energy sources will help us meet our goal of reducing our dependence on foreign sources of fuel.

More importantly, this energy bill provides the right tools for independent oil and gas producers to continue producing from our own fields, right here in this country. I've been fighting for these measures for years, and I'm glad Congress is finally going to implement them. The time is long overdue for Congress to recognize the importance for America to decrease our use of oil and gas from foreign countries and to capitalize on the resources beneath our own soil. And, contrary to what many groups will lead us to conclude, we can drill for oil and gas without doing damage to

our environment. Former U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen of Texas once said that when America imported more than half of its crude and petroleum products, it would have reached a point of peril. Friends and colleagues, we have reached that point.

Although I intend to support this legislation, I must express my extreme disappointment of the process in which this bill was considered. I have worked for years in Congress to promote equality and bipartisanship in this great institution. However, this bill was written behind closed doors with no input from the public. Unfortunately, my Democratic colleagues were not given the opportunity to offer significant amendments to the legislation. This conference report isn't perfect, and it could have been improved significantly if my colleagues were allowed to bring their ideas to the negotiating table and if we were allowed to offset the cost of this legislation.

FREEDOM FOR MANUEL VÁZQUEZ PORTAL

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about Manuel Vázquez Portal, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Vázquez is a 52-year-old writer, poet and founder of the independent news agency Grupo de Trabajo Decoro. Originally, Mr. Vázquez was a high school teacher and a journalist for several state-owned media outlets. However, after years of observing the constant lies and incessant distortion mandated by Castro's totalitarian regime, Mr. Vázquez began working for an independent news agency in 1995. As an independent journalist, Mr. Vázquez relentlessly chronicled the atrocities committed by Castro's machinery of repression, even going so far as to have his articles published under the pseudonym Pablo Cedeño. Eventually, Mr. Vázquez founded the independent news agency Grupo de Trabajo Decoro in 1999.

In fact, because of his ability to find and write the truth as a journalist working under Castro's stifling repression, Mr. Vázquez will receive the 2003 International Press Freedom Award from the Committee to Protect Journalists on this coming Tuesday, November 25, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, when Mr. Vázquez's fellow recipients of the International Press Freedom Award accept this high honor, Mr. Vázquez will be languishing in the Cuban totalitarian gulag next to a toilet he describes as a "hole regurgitating its stench 24 hours a day." Mr. Vázquez was arrested in the reprehensible March crackdown on those many patriots who actively opposed Castro's tyranny. Subsequently, in a sham trial held in April, Mr. Vázquez was sentenced to 18 years in the Cuban gulag.

I remind my colleagues that, under Castro's totalitarian regime, any freedom of the press, any effort to display the atrocities of the regime under the spotlight of truth, is met with swift and violent repression. Mr. Vázquez described the punishing conditions of the Cuban gulag in a diary smuggled out of prison by his

wife. He said "the cell is a space of 1.5 meters wide and 3 meters long." Inside his cell, he describes an interior comprised of insects, an unstable cot, a filthy mattress and a disgusting toilet.

Mr. Speaker, a man who is about to receive the International Press Freedom Award is suffering at this very moment in those abominable conditions. Mr. Vázquez had the courage to depict the reality of Cuba under Castro's totalitarian dictatorship, and now he is locked in the gulag for the next 18 years.

My Colleagues, we can not stand by in silence while those who pursue truth languish in the gulags of repressive dictators. We must stand together and loudly demand freedom for Manuel Vázquez Portal.

PHARMACY EDUCATION AID ACT OF 2003

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, pharmacists are a vital link in this nation's health care system. Across the nation, we are seeing a shortage of pharmacists and this shortage is taking hold in Wyoming as well.

Americans of all ages will continue to take advantage of the therapeutic benefits that come from prescription medications.

Without pharmacists to distribute those drugs and educate us about their effects, we would see the downfall of our health care system. We cannot allow that to happen, and must do what we can to ensure an adequate supply of pharmacists in Wyoming, and across the country.

In addition, as Congress prepares to pass a Medicare reform prescription drug bill, seniors will have greater access to medications at a lower cost and will need qualified pharmacists to help them understand and properly use their medications.

The Pharmacy Education Aid Act of 2003 authorizes two new student-loan programs for pharmacists. The first would repay the student loans of pharmacists who agree to practice for at least 2 years in areas with a critical shortage of pharmacists.

The second would repay the loans of students who agree to serve for a least 2 years as faculty members at accredited schools of pharmacy; one of which is at the University of Wyoming.

It makes sense that if we want an adequate supply of pharmacists in the workplace then we need to ensure adequate faculty to guide them through their education.

We are seeing more of a demand for pharmacists in Wyoming, whether it be in our local Walmart and Safeway stores, or in our hospitals.

Our faculty at UW's school of pharmacy is also stretched very thin, and I want to ensure that we continue to have excellent faculty there. After all, they are responsible for providing Wyoming with the best and brightest in the way of pharmacy graduates.

This legislation is designed to encourage students to enter the pharmacy profession, both in individual practice and as university educators. We all know how expensive it is to get an education these days, and pharmacy students can face loans of up to \$90,000.

This bill will not only help students in Wyoming with the financial burdens associated with education, but help Wyoming obtain the qualified pharmacists it needs.

SAY NO TO INVOLUNTARY
SERVITUDE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the ultimate cost of war is almost always the loss of liberty. True defensive wars and revolutionary wars against tyrants may preserve or establish a free society, as did our war against the British. But these wars are rare. Most wars are unnecessary, dangerous and cause senseless suffering with little being gained. Loss of liberty and life on both sides has been the result of most of the conflicts throughout the ages. The current war, in which we find ourselves, clearly qualifies as one of those unnecessary and dangerous wars. To get the people to support ill-conceived wars the nation's leaders employ grand schemes of deception.

Woodrow Wilson orchestrated our entry into World War I by first promising in the election of 1916 to keep us out of the European conflict, then a few months later pressured and maneuvered the Congress into declaring war against Germany. Whether it was the Spanish-American War before that or all the wars since, U.S. presidents have deceived the people to gain popular support for ill-conceived military ventures. Wilson wanted the war and immediately demanded conscription to fight it. He didn't have the guts to even name the program a military draft and instead in a speech before Congress calling for war advised the army should be "chosen upon the principle of universal liability to service." Most Americans at the time of the declaration didn't believe actual combat troops would be sent. What a dramatic change from this early perception when the people endorsed the war to the carnage that followed and the later disillusionment with Wilson and his grand scheme for world government under the League of Nations. The American people rejected this gross new entanglement reflecting a somewhat healthier age than the one in which we find ourselves today.

But when it comes to war, the principle of deception lives on and the plan for "universal liability to serve" once again is raising its ugly head. The dollar cost of the current war is already staggering yet plans are being made to drastically expand the human cost by forcing conscription on the young men (and maybe women) who have no ax to grind with the Iraqi people and want no part of this fight.

Hundreds of Americans have already been killed and thousands more wounded and crippled while thousands of others will suffer from new and deadly war-related illnesses not yet identified.

We were told we had to support this preemptive war against Iraq because Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and to confront the al Qaeda. It was said our national security depended on it. But all these dangers were found not to exist in Iraq. It was implied that those who did not support this Iraqi invasion were un-American and unpatriotic.

Since the original reasons for the war never existed, it is now claimed that we're there to make Iraq a western-style democracy and to spread western values. And besides, it's argued, that it's nice that Saddam Hussein has been removed from power. But does the mere existence of evil somewhere in the world justify preemptive war at the expense of the American people? Utopian dreams, fulfilled by autocratic means, hardly qualifies as being morally justifiable.

These after-the-fact excuses for invasion and occupation of a sovereign nation directs attention away from the charge that this war was encouraged by the military industrial complex, war profiteering, control of natural resources (oil) and a neo-con agenda of American hegemony with a desire to redraw the borders of the countries of Middle East.

The inevitable failure of such a seriously flawed foreign policy cannot be contemplated by those who have put so much energy into this occupation. The current quagmire prompts calls from many for escalation with more troops being sent to Iraq. Many of our reservists and National Guardsmen cannot wait to get out and have no plans to re-enlist. The odds of our policy of foreign intervention, which has been with us for many decades, are not likely to soon change. The dilemma of how to win an unwinnable war is the issue begging for an answer.

To get more troops, the draft will likely be re-instituted. The implicit prohibition of "involuntary servitude" by the 13th Amendment to the Constitution has already been ignored many times so few will challenge the constitutionality of the coming draft.

Unpopular wars invite conscription. Volunteers disappear, as well they should. A truly defensive just war prompts popular support.

A conscripted, unhappy soldier is better off on the long run than the slaves of old since the "enslavement" is only temporary. But on the short run, the draft may well turn out to be more deadly and degrading as one is forced to commit life and limb to a less than worthy cause—like teaching democracy to unwilling and angry Arabs. Slaves were safer in that their owners had an economic interest in protecting their lives. Life endangerment for a soldier is acceptable policy and that's why they are needed. Too often though, our men and women who are exposed to the hostilities of war and welcomed initially are easily forgotten after the fighting ends.

It is said we go about the world waging war to promote peace and yet the price paid is rarely weighed against the failed efforts to make the world a better place. But justifying conscription to promote the cause of liberty is one of the most bizarre notions ever conceived by man. Forced servitude with risk of death and serious injury as a price to live free makes no sense. By what right does anyone have to sacrifice the lives of others for some cause of questionable value? Even if well motivated it cannot justify using force on uninterested persons.

It's said that the 18-year-old owes it to his country. Hogwash. It could just as easily be argued that a 50-year-old chicken-hawk who promotes war and places the danger on the innocent young, owe a heck of a lot more to the country than the 18-year-old being denied his liberty for a cause that has no justification.

All drafts are unfair. All 18- and 19-year-olds are never needed. By its very nature, a draft

must be discriminatory. All drafts hit the most vulnerable as the elitists learn quickly how to avoid the risks of combat.

The dollar cost of war and the economic hardship is great in all wars and cannot be minimized. War is never economically beneficial except for those in position to profit from war expenditures. But the great tragedy of war is the careless disregard for civil liberties of our own people. Abuse of German and Japanese Americans in World War I and World War II is well known.

But the real sacrifice comes with conscription—forcing a small number of young vulnerable citizens to fight the wars that old men and women, who seek glory in military victory without themselves being exposed to danger, promote. These are wars with neither purpose nor moral justification and too often are not even declared by the Congress.

Without conscription, unpopular wars are much more difficult to fight. Once the draft was undermined in the 1960s and early 1970s, the Vietnam War came to an end.

But most importantly—liberty cannot be preserved by tyranny. A free society must always resort to volunteers. Tyrants think nothing of forcing men to fight and die in wrongheaded wars; a true fight for survival and defense of one's homeland I'm sure would elicit, the assistance of every able-bodied man and woman. This is not the case for wars of mischief far away from home in which we so often have found ourselves in the past century.

One of the worst votes that an elected official could ever cast would be to institute a military draft to fight an illegal war, if that individual himself maneuvered to avoid military service. But avoiding the draft on principle qualifies oneself to work hard to avoid all unnecessary war and oppose the draft for all others.

A government that's willing to enslave a portion of its people to fight an unjust war can never be trusted to protect the liberties of its own citizens. The end can never justify the means no matter what the Neo-cons say.

BEST WISHES TO THOMAS J.
AIKEN

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to express warm thanks, congratulations, and best wishes to Thomas J. Aiken, upon his retirement as the Central California Area Manager of the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau). Tom has done an outstanding job in a difficult position, and he deserves the appreciation of both his colleagues and the general public.

Born and raised in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Tom earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Colorado State University in 1964. At the same time, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Army. He served dutifully as a Unit Commander for the Military Advisory Corps in Vietnam.

Following his military service, Tom began his three-decade career with the Bureau. In 1974, he joined the Mid-Pacific Region as the Administrative Officer for the Auburn Dam Construction Office. After the Auburn Dam

project was stalled shortly thereafter, he became the region's Budget Officer for six years. Subsequently, from 1984 to early 1993, Tom was the Assistant Regional Director for Administration, overseeing such functions as personnel, budget, finance, procurement, and computer processing.

In 1993, Tom received his final and perhaps most challenging position with the Bureau—that of Manager of the Central California Area office. The area includes the Folsom and Nimbus Dams and the Folsom South Canal on the American River, New Melones Dam on the Stanislaus River, and Lake Berryessa located between Napa and Winters.

Mr. Speaker, many of the issues relating to the facilities and watersheds in the Central California Area have been controversial, yet Tom has constantly sought to serve the public's best interest. As a veteran of California's renowned water wars, Tom has frequently had to be a facilitator amongst numerous competing interests. Despite the challenging and often unpleasant nature of this position, he has weathered it with patience and a continuing willingness to stand on principle.

One such example that has been of special importance to me has been Tom's unwavering support of the Auburn Dam. For three decades, Tom has helped promote the need to build the Auburn Dam by championing its unmatched ability to provide flood protection, water supply, hydroelectric power, recreational opportunities, and environmental benefits. Tom rightly recognizes that the Auburn Dam is the only solution to the Sacramento region's water management needs, and he has been one of the few who has stood steadfast in that position despite the misguided opposition of those in the environmental community and from within the Bureau itself. Tom's commitment to the Auburn Dam is nothing less than a testament to his dedication to faithfully uphold the Bureau's mission of providing a reliable water supply to the West in the most efficient and effective way possible.

Tom has received several honors for his good work, including the National Administrative Support Units' Annual Award for Executive Leadership in 1991, Who's Who in Government Service in 1990, and the Interior Department's Meritorious Service Award in 1984.

As he retires from public service, Tom will be free to spend more time with his family, including his wife, Linda, his children, Joe and Me'Shay, his step-daughters, Jennifer and Lisa, and his five grandchildren. Also, he will have more time to pursue his oil painting and show his 1934 Ford hot rod. His family's gain is the public's loss.

Mr. Speaker, one thing is certain—Tom Aiken's expertise, cooperative attitude, clear thinking, and toughness will certainly be missed in California's water community.

THE SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the Department of Defense Inspector

General's public report on Richard Perle, an editorial from the Wall Street Journal, and a clip from The Washington Times.

[Editorial from the Wall Street Journal]

PERLE'S VINDICATION

One obligation of editors is to distinguish phony political scandal from the genuine article. On that standard, any number of writers and editors owe Richard Perle an apology.

The noted defense intellectual voluntarily resigned in March as chairman of the Pentagon's Defense Policy Board Advisory Committee after his enemies pumped up a few anecdotes into allegations about "conflicts of interest." The Pentagon's Inspector General has been investigating those charges and last week issued a report absolving Mr. Perle of even the "appearance" of impropriety.

The accusations, fanned by Michigan Democrat John Conyers, had received especially prominent coverage in the New Yorker magazine and the New York Times. They boiled down to the all-purpose Washington smear that Mr. Perle has exploited his position for personal financial gain. But Pentagon investigator Donald Horstman concluded in a letter to Mr. Perle that "all of your activities with respect to those private entities complied with statutory and regulatory standards." There were no "quid pro" offers or attempts to leverage his (unpaid) Pentagon access.

In Washington, of course, people are often run out of office merely for the "appearance" of a conflict of interest. But Mr. Horstman says he also examined that "more elusive issue" and concluded that Mr. Perle's "activities did not create such an appearance" under the "perspective of a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts." Mr. Perle's accusers knew all the facts, so the only conclusion is that they are not "reasonable persons," which will not come as news to most of our readers.

Mr. Conyers is now trying to compound his political felony by proposing to close what he claims is a "loophole" that requires someone to work more than 60 days a year before certain, more stringent Pentagon ethics rules apply. But this would essentially bar anyone with private expertise from advising Defense officials even in a voluntary, unpaid capacity. How this would enhance U.S. national security is not obvious. Then again, U.S. security was the last thing on the mind of Mr. Perle's critics.

[From the Washington Times, Nov. 20, 2003]

WASHINGTON-STYLE POLITICS

I beg to differ with Greg Pierce's recent item "All-purpose smear" (Inside Politics, Nation, Tuesday), claiming that charges levied against former Defense Policy Board Advisory Committee Chairman Richard Perle were an "all-purpose Washington smear."

A close reading of the inspector general's report would indicate that Mr. Perle's conduct raises real conflict-of-interest issues. There is no doubt that Mr. Perle had an important role in shaping our nation's defense policy and heavily influenced the mobilization of our war machine in Iraq, along with all the defense contracts and profits that follow. The IG's report confirmed that while guiding this effort, Mr. Perle benefited financially by working for firms with major business before the Department of Defense.

The report notes that Mr. Perle appears to have represented Global Crossing and Loral in matters pending before the Defense Department, but escaped violations of the conflict-of-interest laws by virtue of the fact that he was considered to be in the board's employ less than the required 60-day period.

Mr. Perle went so far as to sign an affidavit claiming that his position as chairman of the Defense Policy Board gave him a "unique perspective on and intimate knowledge of national defense and security issues." The fact that the offending language subsequently was removed from the affidavit doesn't change the reality of the assertion or the awkwardness of the conflict.

My legislation responds to the loopholes highlighted by the IG's report by merely ensuring that persons such as the chairman of the Defense Policy Board are treated as if they worked for the government for 60 days.

This would ensure that persons awarded with the public trust through prominent public positions do not use that trust to feather their own nests financially. At a time when we are asking our soldiers to make so many sacrifices, I hardly think it is too much to ask the chairman of the Defense Policy Board to refrain from representing clients with financial interests before the Defense Department.

ALL-PURPOSE SMEAR

"One obligation of editors is to distinguish phony political scandal from the genuine article. On that standard, any number of writers and editors owe Richard Perle an apology," the Wall Street Journal says. "The noted defense intellectual voluntarily resigned in March as chairman of the Pentagon's Defense Policy Board Advisory Committee after his enemies pumped up a few anecdotes into allegations about 'conflicts of interest.' The Pentagon's inspector general has been investigating those charges and last week issued a report absolving Mr. Perle of even the 'appearance' of impropriety," the newspaper said in an editorial. "The accusations, fanned by Michigan Democrat John Conyers, had received especially prominent coverage in the New Yorker magazine and the New York Times. They boiled down to the all-purpose Washington smear that Mr. Perle has exploited his position for personal financial gain. But Pentagon investigator Donald Horstman concluded in a letter to Mr. Perle that 'all of your activities with respect to those private entities complied with statutory and regulatory standards.' There were no 'quid pro' offers or attempts to leverage his (unpaid) Pentagon access. 'Mr. Horstman says he also examined that 'more elusive issue' and concluded that Mr. Perle's 'activities did not create such an appearance' under the 'perspective of a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts.' Mr. Perle's accusers knew all the facts, so the only conclusion is that they are not 'reasonable persons,' which will not come as news to most of our readers."

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DIABETES MONTH

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, this November, we recognize National Diabetes Month and renew our commitment to preventing and eradicating diabetes. Just last week, the Department of Health and Human Services announced that the number of Americans with diabetes rose to an all-time high. According to their report, an estimated 18.2 million Americans now have diabetes, more than 6 percent of the population.

Even more alarming is the fact that many Americans are unaware that they may be at

risk or already have diabetes. Recent research suggests that more than five million people have the disease but have not been diagnosed.

Another major cause of concern is the number of serious diabetes related illnesses. Diabetes is the leading cause of blindness among adults between 20 and 74 years of age. People with diabetes are also at higher risk for heart disease, kidney failure, extremity amputations, and other chronic conditions.

To ensure the future health of our Nation, we can safeguard our children and our families from diabetes by encouraging good health and regular exercise. Following the guidelines for good nutrition, getting physical exercise, and maintaining proper weight can help prevent diabetes and reduce the chance of severe complications.

As the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, finding a cure for diabetes is a top priority for medical researches. As a member of Congress, this year I supported legislation that included funding for important diabetes research and clinical testing. This year the House voted to provide \$1.6 billion for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, which is \$47.2 million above fiscal year 2003. In addition, \$150 million in mandatory funds will be made available for juvenile diabetes research.

Through increased prevention and research we will overcome this disease and free millions of Americans from the threat of diabetes and related illnesses.

ANACOSTIA WATERSHED INITIATIVE ACT OF 2003

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Anacostia Watershed Initiative Act of 2003. I am very pleased to be joined on the bill by several of my colleagues from the Washington region—Mr. HOYER, Mr. WYNN, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

Although the beautiful Potomac, a river we also love, gets most of the attention in this region, it is the Anacostia that flows closest to the Congress and to the neighborhoods of the city and region. The Anacostia flows just 2,000 yards from the majestic Capitol Dome. The wastewater from the Capitol complex flows into the river when the ancient D.C. sewer system—built over the last century and a half—overflows on rainy days. The polluted runoff from congressional and federal parking lots and the fertilizers and pesticides from our magnificent lawns and gardens go into the Anacostia on those days as well. Many Members of Congress maintain a home in the Anacostia watershed. It is a sad fact that more than 30 years after the passage of the Clean Water Act, the Anacostia, despite its proximity to the Congress, remains badly contaminated with fecal bacteria, toxic chemicals, heavy metals, and many other pollutants. Contact with the water of the Anacostia isn't safe for human beings, there are official warnings not to eat fish caught in the river, and according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, more than half of the bottom-feeding brown bullheads in the river have cancerous tumors caused by chemicals.

We're simply not doing a good job of taking care of our home river. The Anacostia has no treatment plants and very few small industrial sites. Federal agencies are the biggest polluters of the river. Nearly all of its pollution enters the river from public streets, storm drains, and sewers. These public systems—particularly the District's combined sewer—are old and inadequate and should have been upgraded years ago.

One of the many challenges in cleaning up the Anacostia is that five-sixths of the land area that contributes polluted water to it is within the state of Maryland, about a sixth of the total is owned and managed by the federal government. The residents of the District of Columbia especially feel the effects of the pollution. The result of that geography is that neither the District of Columbia nor any other single jurisdiction can achieve the cleanup of the river by itself. If we are to envision the day that the Anacostia can be a real asset for the entire Washington region extraordinary cooperation among the federal, state, and local governments will be required.

This is the purpose of the Anacostia Watershed Initiative Act of 2003. The bill that my colleagues and I are introducing today would bring together federal, state, District of Columbia and other local governments in a joint approach to cleaning up the river. It would set up a mechanism to develop, fund, and implement a 10-year Comprehensive Action Plan for the Anacostia watershed that would address both the District's outdated and inadequate combined sewer system and the runoff from federal facilities and other properties in Maryland. It would involve all the major players in a truly unified approach to cleaning up the home river of Congress.

This legislation has broad support, not only among members of congress, but from state and local officials, environmentalists, and the business community. With regional colleagues as original co-sponsors, I will work hard for the passage of the Anacostia Watershed Initiative Act of 2003 and know that our colleagues in the other body will work for it there, too. I urge all members of the House to join me in creating a Congressional home river that we can be truly proud of.

THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am joining with 81 of my colleagues to introduce the Employee Free Choice Act—legislation that will strengthen workers' rights in America.

Workers in America are demanding the same basic legal, labor and human rights by which we judge other nations around the world: the freedom of association and the right to collectively bargain.

These are the internationally-recognized standards our government says all workers deserve, whether in China or in Chattanooga, in Mexico or in Milwaukee, in South Africa or in South Carolina. We tell other nations that collective bargaining gives workers a voice in the workplace. It's time—in fact, it's way past time—for workers here in the United States to

have the same rights and protections we demand of poorer, less developed and less democratic nations around the world.

Unfortunately, the basic labor law that Congress enacted in 1935 no longer works to protect the right of workers to form and join unions. Recent history is littered with the stories of companies that defeated their workers when they sought to exercise their legal right to organize for their mutual benefit.

Something is obviously very wrong with our nation's labor laws when one side in a dispute has so many weapons at its disposal to thwart the will of the majority.

We are all aware of the egregious record of Wal-Mart, whose vigorous anti-union activities include threats and firings to unlawful surveillance. In the last few years, Wal-Mart has been charged with well over 100 unfair labor practices and has faced at least 50 formal complaints from the NLRB. None of this has apparently deterred Wal-Mart. Current law simply does not discourage lawbreakers.

In August 2000, Human Rights Watch, which usually reviews conditions in developing nations, documented "a systemic failure to ensure the most basic right of workers [in the United States]: their freedom to choose to come together to negotiate the terms of their employment with their employers." No impartial observer of our law could reach any other conclusion.

Is this the image of democracy that we choose to show to the rest of the world?

It is no mystery why workers want unions. The wages of union workers are 26% higher than for nonunion workers. Union workers have better pensions, better health benefits, and better short-term disability coverage. Union workers have contracts that prevent arbitrary firings.

So why do unions win only 50% of the elections? Because the deck is stacked against employees who want to form a union.

We propose a new deck. Not just a new deal.

The Employee Free Choice Act restores integrity to our labor law by ensuring that our own citizens have the same basic freedom we demand for others. The right to organize must mean more than the right to be fired for daring to propose a union, and the right to bargain collectively must mean more than the right to endlessly negotiate once a union has been selected.

Throughout my congressional career, I have fought to improve the rights of workers. With many of my colleagues I've fought for a larger minimum wage, protection for migrant workers, better education, and greater retirement security and health coverage. This fight is to enable workers to fight for themselves. It is an historic fight that I resolve to continue until the rights of working Americans are fully protected.

For the benefit of my colleagues, a short summary of the Employee Free Choice Act follows:

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT 1. CERTIFICATION ON THE BASIS OF SIGNED AUTHORIZATIONS

Provides for certification of a union as the bargaining representative if the National Labor Relations Board finds that a majority of employees in an appropriate unit has signed authorizations designating the union as its bargaining representative. Requires the Board to develop model authorization

language and procedures for establishing the authenticity of signed authorizations.

2. FIRST CONTRACT MEDIATION AND
ARBITRATION

Provides that if an employer and a union are engaged in bargaining for their first contract and are unable to reach agreement within 90 days, either party may refer the dispute to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) for mediation. If the FMCS has been unable to bring the parties to agreement after 30 days of mediation the dispute will be referred to arbitration and the results of the arbitration shall be binding on the parties for two years. Time limits may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties.

3. STRONGER PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS WHILE
EMPLOYEES ARE ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE
OR OBTAIN A FIRST CONTRACT

Makes the following new provisions applicable to violations of the National Labor Relations Act committed by employers against employees during any period while employees are attempting to organize a union or negotiate a first contract with the employer:

a. **Mandatory Applications for Injunctions:** Provides that just as the NLRB is required to seek a federal court injunction against a union whenever there is reasonable cause to believe that the union has violated the secondary boycott prohibitions in the Act, the NLRB must seek a federal court injunction against an employer whenever there is reasonable cause to believe that the employer

has discharged or discriminated against employees, threatened to discharge or discriminate against employees, or engaged in conduct that significantly interferes with employee rights during an organizing or first contract drive. Authorizes the courts to grant temporary restraining orders or other appropriate injunctive relief.

b. **Treble Backpay:** Increases the amount an employer is required to pay when an employee is discharged or discriminated against during an organizing campaign or first contract drive to three times back pay.

c. **Civil Penalties:** Provides for civil fines of up to \$20,000 per violation against employers found to have willfully or repeatedly violated employees' rights during an organizing campaign or first contract drive.